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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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The Daily and Weekly Commercial—Newspapers Decisions.—1. Any one who takes a paper regularly from the Postoffice—whether directed to his name or another, or whether he has subscribed or not—is responsible for the payment.

2. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

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FIRST EDITION.

FOREIGN NEWS.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE

Germany.

THE CATHOLIC QUESTION.

BERLIN, April 11.—The Roman Catholic bishops, soon after their conference at Fulda, addressed a petition to Emperor William in person, remonstrating against the withdrawal of the State grants, to the maintenance of which they declared that the honor of Prussia was pledged. They also protested against being required to obey unconditionally the State laws. The Ministers, authorized by the Emperor, have replied expressing regret that the bishops should object to obey laws which are always obeyed in other countries, and adding that the bishops would have preserved the Fatherland from peace-disturbing confusion, if they had remained faithful to their own convictions, and to the warnings which they proclaimed before the Vatican council.

REASSURING VIEW OF THE EUROPEAN SITUATION.

BERLIN, April 11.—The *North German Gazette*, a semi-official journal, says: "The article of the Berlin *Post* contains much truth in one respect, but is combined with such anxious views that we must contradict it. Our international relations are by no means as unfavorable as represented. While the reorganization of the French army is disquieting, it does not aim at a solid establishment of French forces, but is undertaken for obvious purposes. The *Post* overrates the influence of the Papal party and the Jesuits in Italy and Austria. Their power is happily insufficient to prejudice the good understanding between the sovereigns or nations concerned." The *Gazette* thinks that the same may be said in regard to France.

BILL ON ECCLESIASTICAL RELATIONS.

BERLIN, April 11.—A bill has been introduced in the Lower House of the Prussian Diet to abrogate the clauses of the Constitution which grant independent administration of ecclesiastical affairs and unimpeded intercourse of religious associations with their superiors. The bill restricts the freedom of clerical appointments, and makes their confirmation indispensable to their legality.

Spain.

THE UNIVERSITY TROUBLE.

MADRID, April 10.—The highest position in the Madrid University has been conferred upon Da Fuente, a former editor of a Carlist newspaper. No Liberal would accept the post. There is much dissatisfaction at the appointment, and the students are signing a protest to the Government.

PRISONERS SHOT BY THE CARLISTS.

PARIS, April 11.—It is reported from Estella that the Carlists shot eight Alfonsists prisoners on 9th inst. in reprisal for Carlists assassinated near Tafalla.

England.

PAUL BOYNTON'S FEAT.

LONDON, April 10.—Paul Boynton, who started from Dover soon after four this morning to go to France in his life-saving apparatus, arrived at Boulogne at eight o'clock this evening. He was in excellent health and spirits. A great crowd was present to receive him, and gave him an enthusiastic welcome.

LONDON, April 11.—Paul Boynton did not make the entire distance to Boulogne by swimming. He was taken on board the press steamer shortly after six o'clock yesterday afternoon against his own wish, within eight miles of the coast. The weather had become boisterous, night was closing in, and the pilot declined the responsibility of guiding him after dark. Boynton has determined to repeat his attempt to swim across the channel.

A *Herald* special says that Boynton failed five miles from France. He was not tired, but darkness stopped him. He was fifteen hours out.

The Queen and Lord Mayor telegraphed their congratulations. The reporters publish a joint declaration that Boynton's desistence was due solely to their remonstrance because of the increasing darkness and roughness of the channel. He fully proved his power to succeed under ordinary circumstances. The doctors certify that he was able to paddle fifty six hours longer. He was not visibly disturbed.

BISMARCK TO VISIT THE ISLE OF WIGHT.

LONDON, April 12, 5:30 A. M.—Prince Bismarck is expected soon at Sandown, Isle of Wight, whither he comes for the benefit of his health.

THE GERMAN IMPERIAL'S ITALIAN VISIT.

LONDON, April 12.—The German Prince Imperial will go to Italy as announced, but the intention of officially visiting King Victor Emanuel has been abandoned. The *Daily News* says he is informed that he has decided not to visit the King at the special request of Prince Bismarck.

France.

PEACEFUL EXPRESSIONS FROM A SEMI-OFFICIAL SOURCE.

PARIS, April 11.—The *Moniteur* (semi-official) declares that France is anxious for peace as a paramount necessity. She is not conspiring against any one. The French press generally concur in this opinion.

Marine News.

LONDON, April 11.—The steamships Umbria and Wisconsin, from New York, and Pennsylvania, from Philadelphia, have arrived out.

European Markets.

LONDON, April 10, 5 P. M.—Consols for money 93 6-16@93; for account 93 5-8@93¾. United States bonds—5-20's 1865, 107¾ @ 107 15-16; 10-40's, 103; new 5's, 103¾. New York Central 94; Erie 23¼; preferred 37. Refined petroleum 10@10½d.

PARIS, April 10.—Rentes 62 francs 35 centimes.

FRANKFORT, April 10.—United States bonds—20's, 1862, 99.

LIVERPOOL, April 10.—Cotton quiet; middling upland 8d; Orleans 8 4-16@8¼d. Sales of 10,000 bales, including 1,000 for speculation and export, and 8,800 American. Flour—extra State 28s. Wheat—No. 1 spring 9s 1d; No. 2 8s 9d; winter 9s 3d. Corn firmer at 34s 6d.

ANTWERP, April 10.—Refined petroleum 29¾ francs.

THE COLONEL BUTLER MURDER.

Gray Meek Pronounced a Defamer of the Dead, a Liar and a Villian.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

BROOKVILLE, PA., April 10, 1875.

The following telegram was sent to P. Gray Meek, editor of the Bellefonte *Watchman*, this evening: "The article in your paper characterizing Col. Butler, who was murdered by Laundesbury, as a sneaking scoundrel, and stating that he killed a woman, is false in every particular, and the man who wrote it is a defamer of the dead, liar and a villian.

[Signed] "DAVID EASON,
" A. P. HEICHOLD,
" JOHN S. BARR,
" B. SWEENEY,
" SILAS J. MARTIN."

FIRE RECORD.

Millerstown, Pa.—Loss $100,000.

TITUSVILLE, April 11.—A fire at Millerstown, Pennsylvania, at half-past three this afternoon, broke out in the confectionary store and faro bank of a man named Bluegene and in two hours destroyed forty buildings. It is impossible at present to give the losses, but they will not be less than $100,000. The most important losses were McKinney Bros. and Caley's building, German National bank, S. McBride's drug store, A. Falamo's paint store, and the Logan Opera House. The other buildings were principally saloons and small tenement buildings. There is only a little insurance.

Cincinnati—$12,000.

CINCINNATI, April 11.—A supposed incendiary fire, about three o'clock this morning, destroyed five or six buildings, embraced in Coultry & Malony's pottery, for the manufacture of Rockingham and yellow ware, near the corner of Dayton and Whiteman streets. The same firm were burned out about a year ago. The loss is $12,000; insurance $5,000. The engine horses, after being detached from the steamer, ran away, seriously injuring the driver.

Richwood, O.—$50,000.

A Cincinnati *Commercial* special says that a fire at Richwood, Ohio, last night, destroyed N. P. Westheimer's drug store, Jordan, Thornhill & Co.'s hardware store, Morris Hill's furniture store, the Methodist church, and several small buildings. The loss is about $50,000; insurance unknown.

South Bend, Ind.—$75,000.

CHICAGO, April 10.—A *Times'* special says that a fire occurred at South Bend, Indians, this morning, by which the greater part of a block of wooden buildings was destroyed. Among other losses is that of the Studebaker firm who have already lost extensively by fires this year. The total loss is $75,000; insurance $20,000.

New York City—$320,000.

NEW YORK, April 11.—This morning a fire, originating in No. 37 and 59 North Moore street, spread to the lower floors of 61 and 63 Worth street and 62 Leonard street, causing a loss of $320,000 as follows: Loss on buildings $10,000; damage to stock, Geo. Turnbull & Co., dry goods, $200,000; Wendell, Hutchinson & Co., dry goods, $50,000; Clark, Goodwin & Co., dry goods, $50,000; Parker, Wilder & Co., dry goods, $10,000. All covered by insurance.

White River
now arriving in bags and barrels.

THE DEATH RATE.

Great Increase During the Past Winter.

From facts collected by medical men in all parts of the world, it appears that a sudden and heavy increase of the death rate among adults marked the winter of 1874-75. In the Southern States of the Union and in Northern Europe the same disclosures are made by the records of vital statistics. They all agree in the main parts of their reports, and declare that unprecedented changes from the normal state of the weather occurred during the past cold months. The weather was cold and moist. That combination produced pulmonary disease and pneumonia. At the same time it made this class of ailments extremely difficult to cure. Diphtheria was also prevalent in an unusual degree. In some sections it amounted to an epidemic, and scores of people were carried off by it in a short time. Dr. Farrs, Registrar of Vital Statistics in New York, reports that in that city the total percentage of deaths will be from twelve to fifteen per cent. additional, and in special classes of diseases most fatal the ratio has been doubled. In reference to diphtheria the reports from Edinburgh, Glasgow, London, Liverpool, Dublin, Vienna and Hamburg shows that the ravages have been widespread and fatal. Paris has a lower per cent. of deaths from this malady. This is accounted for by the excellent sanitary regulations in force in the French capital, and the rigid manner in which they are carried out by special officers appointed for that purpose. The physicians say that persons in the constant habit of taking strong liquors are in great danger from diphtheria. In these persons the mucous membrane of the throat is weakened to a fatal extent, and, as a matter of course, cannot resist the effects of the vast of a cold atmosphere, and that heavily laden with moisture. In this section the weather was unusually trying upon people from the 1st of January to the 1st of April. One storm followed another in rapid succession, and in most cases the transition was so sudden as to produce consequences of a very unpleasant if not fatal character. No attention to clothing could prevent the action of the damp, rasping air upon the throat and lungs, and hence the increase in this family of complaints. Among those who were compelled to live in damp houses and go half clad the effects of the mortality were of necessity greater. The winter of 1855-56 was marked with heavy mortality rates, but not so heavy as those of 1874-75, which are now being presented to the world in the shape of regularly collected vital statistics.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES.

A coke oven is being built for a Reading, Pa., pottery.

The rafting season has fairly opened on the Delaware.

A foundry and machine shop is in course of construction at Elizabeth, Pa.

The value of coal mined in Germany in 1872 amounted to about $100,000,000.

It is stated that the car drivers' strike in New York city was instigated by idle men who hoped to step into the vacant places.

Both the steel and old rail mills at South Bethlehem, Pa., are in blast. Laborers receive $1 10 per day. An addition to the mill is being erected.

The Williamsport, Pa., *Gazette* says the lumber shipments from that point for 1875 amount to 22,941,650 feet, being a falling off as compared with the same time last year of 2,409,149 feet.

Hon. M. S. Quay, of this place, recently made a sale of over two hundred thousand fine brick, manufactured at his works over the river. He shipped twelve car loads of them last week.—*Beaver, Pa., Democrat.*

A wooden ware company, with a capital of $25,000, has been organized at Warren, Pa. They will buy machinery, &c., and build shops at once. Another manufactory, for making patent buggy wheels, is contemplated.

T. B. White & Sons, of the Penn Bridge and Machine Works, New Brighton, Pa., have been awarded the contract, by the authorities of Olean, New York, for building an iron bridge over Olean creek in that town, for the sum of $2,575.

The strike of the 'longshoremen in New York has become general. The men declare that they will hold out for their demands, and the stevedores, on the other hand, emphatically declare that they will never give in, and will not under any circumstances re-employ the men who have struck.

We commend to the "down-trodden and oppressed" leaders of the workingmen the course of the striking spinners at Lowell. They are preparing to go back to England, and though we have no particular grudge against Ireland, we do heartily wish the turbulent spirits of this region would follow their example.

Of the 53 furnaces reported in the Lehigh Valley, 31 of them are at present in blast, and 22 out of blast. Of 41 reported in Schuylkill Valley, 14 are in blast and 27 are out of blast or "banked up." Of 24 in the Susquehanna Valley, 10 are in blast and 14 are out of blast. The grand total of these reports is 119, of which 56 are in blast and 63 are out of blast.

At Sharpsville all the furnaces are out of blast; at Sharon only one in blast; at Middlesex all out; the Clara, at New Castle, will blow out in two or three weeks. These are all in the Shenango Valley. The most of the furnaces in this section that are out of blast—and they nearly all are—will be adapted for using coke instead of block coal as heretofore.

This week the contractors on the Perkiomen Railroad will begin building the road at both ends of the uncompleted line, at Pennsburg and Emaus, Pa. The tunnel, it is believed, can be finished by next October, and by that time the contractors will have the road in running order, and another route will be opened from Allentown to Philadelphia.

The Cleveland *Herald* of the 10th inst. says: The situation of the puddlers at the Cleveland rolling mills, in the Eighteenth ward, remains unchanged. The company have on hand a large quantity of workable iron and are determined to stand by their former decision, while the puddlers seem to be equally firm in their determination to have the old prices or do without work. There is no indication whatever of an agreement.

The Allentown, Pa., *Democrat* says that since the completion of the Berks and Lehigh railroads, the slate manufacturers at Steinsville have been working their quarries with larger forces of men, while some capitalists have been induced to open new beds. The railroad affords them the much needed facilities for shipping their products, and thereby they are enabled to compete with dealers in other parts. Two quarries are in full operation at present.

The Akron *Argus* says: The Akron mills have capacity enough to produce on an average about 1,600 barrels of flour every day. In 1873 one of our mills manufactured 40,000 barrels of flour. One hundred barrels of oatmeal are produced in one day, on an average, and the demand for this farinaceous food is rapidly on the increase. The German mills, where the flour is produced, is, no doubt, the most extensive mills of the kind in the United States.

It seems that a number of wells will be put down in the Beaver Valley for natural gas. Messrs. Blake & Fessenden intend putting one down for the use of their file works. The owners of the paper mill, at Beaver Falls, intend putting one down also, and it is rumored that a company have leased the well at Bennett's run, and convey the gas to Beaver Falls, where it will be furnished for fuel. We have understood that this company are by the condition of their lease, compelled to put down another well, with a view of obtaining oil. It has become a well settled opinion of many that the great Butler oil belt passes through that vicinity.—*Beaver, Pa., Democrat.*

The first wrought iron driving wheels ever manufactured in this country were made by Mr. James Mullen, 804 Penn street, this city. They were used on the engine "Stag" which belonged to the Roadway Department of the Reading Railroad Company. They were made in the year 1847, and at that time Mr. Mullen was master blacksmith of the Reading Railroad Company. They have been pretty much in use ever since. After the model then introduced the wheels have always been made, and it is but justice to say that there are no better drivers made in the country. Mr. Mullen has long since retired from the position he then held, but he still retains a warm interest in mechanical affairs.—*Reading, Pa., Times.*

The Clearfield, Pa., *Republican* says: "Instead of sending seventeen hundred rafts, or about ten million feet of lumber to the lower market, as we did last year, to only about eight hundred or eight hundred and fifty rafts, or probably five million feet will be sent into market this year. The reduction will be severely felt by us in this county this year, and if the prices fall much below last year the depression will be awful. But there is no use of being discouraged. Let our timber stand, and our people go to work and raise wheat, corn, potatoes, beef and pork of their own, which is no harder work than timbering, and they need not send what little money they have out of the county for that which they can produce themselves."

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

More About Postal Contracts.

Development and Progress of Territorial Contractors.

The Poverty of Church Mice Exchanged for Magnificent Dinners and Fast Horses

Vice President Wilson Gives up His European Trip.

Sundry Stated and Supposed Reasons for that Step.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 11, 1875.

The Frauds in the Postoffice Department.

There seems to be no doubt that the recent exposures of frauds in the postal contracts are but a sample of the most extensive system of swindling which has for a long time been practiced against the Government in this branch of the public service. Postmaster General Jewell appears to be determined to unearth all the frauds upon the Government in this connection, and he has undoubtedly a heavy work before him. During the past two or three winters all shoddydom has been aghast with envy at the royal style of living indulged in by several of the Territorial mail contractors, who spend their time here. These parties who came here as poor as church mice, give the finest dinners and drive the fastest horses in the city. The Postmaster General will do well to overhaul their contracts.

Movements of Vice President Wilson.

Vice President Wilson will leave here on Tuesday to attend the centennial celebration of the Pennsylvania Abolition Society, to take place on Wednesday. In about two weeks he will set out on a tour to the Pacific coast upon the advice of his friends. He says that he has given up his long contemplated trip to Europe, not wishing to set the precedent of a Vice President leaving the country while in office. It is hinted by some that he is influenced by a declaration alleged to have been made by Dr. Brown-Sequard if at President Grant will not live six months. That distinguished physician, it may be stated, denies that he ever made that assertion.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 10, 1875.

BILLS PASSED AT THE LATE SESSION OF CONGRESS.

The following is an official list, just completed, of acts of a general nature passed at the second session of the Forty-third Congress:

1. An act to enable the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia to proceed with its jury business.

2. An act providing for the authentication of the Revised Statutes of the United States and for preserving the originals of all laws in the Department of State.

3. An act suspending so much of the act entitled, "An act reorganizing the several staff corps of the Army," approved June twenty-third, eighteen hundred and seventy-four, as applies to contract surgeons.

4. An act to create an additional land district in the State of Oregon, to be called the Dalles land district.

5. An act to provide for the resumption of specie payments.

6. An act making appropriations for the naval service for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-six, and for other purposes.

7. An act to remove the limitation restricting the circulation of banking associations issuing notes payable in gold.

8. An act declaratory of the act entitled, "An act to amend the customs revenue laws, and to repeal moieties," approved June twenty-second, eighteen hundred and seventy-four.

9. An act to constitute Patchogue, on the south side of Long Island, in the State of New York, a port of delivery.

10. An act for the payment of interest on three-sixty-five bonds of the District of Columbia.

11. An act to amend existing customs and internal revenue laws, and for other purposes.

12. An act making appropriations for fortifications and other works of defense for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-five.

13. An act to amend section two thousand three hundred and twenty-four of the Revised Statutes, relating to the development of the mining resources of the United States.

14. An act to facilitate the disposition of cases in the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

15. An act to correct errors and to supply omissions in the Revised Statutes of the United States.

16. An act making appropriations for the consular and diplomatic service of the Government for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-six and for other purposes.

17. An act to amend section five thousand two hundred and forty of the Revised Statutes of the United States, in relation to compensation of national bank examiners.

18. An act to amend an act entitled, "An act for the government of the District of Columbia, and for other purposes," approved June twentieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-four.

19. An act regulating fees and costs, and for other purposes.

20. An act to protect all citizens in their civil and legal rights.

21. An act to authorize the promulgation of the general regulations for the government of the army.

22. An act making appropriations for the payment of invalid and other pensions of the United States, for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-six.

23. An act fixing the number of paymasters in the army of the United States.

24. An act further supplemental to the various acts prescribing the mode of obtaining evidence in cases of contested elections.

25. An act in relation to the Quartermaster's Department, fixing its status, reducing its numbers, and regulating appointments and promotions therein.

26. An act to further protect the sinking fund and provide for the exigencies of the Government.

27. An act making appropriations for the service of the Postoffice Department for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-six, and for other purposes.

28. An act making appropriations for the legislative, executive, and judicial expenses of the Government for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-five, and for other purposes.

29. An act making appropriations for sundry civil expenses of the Government for the fiscal year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-six, and for other purposes.

30. An act making appropriations to supply deficiencies in the appropriations for fiscal year, ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-five, and prior years, and for other purposes.

31. An act making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department, and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes, for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-six, and for other purposes.

32. An act making appropriations for the repair, preservation, and completion of certain public works on rivers and harbors, and for other purposes.

33. An act making appropriations for the support of the Military Academy for the year ending June thirtieth, eighteen hundred and seventy-six.

35. An act restricting the refunding of custom duties and prescribing certain regulations of the Treasury Department.

36. An act to determine the jurisdiction of Circuit courts of the United States, and to regulate the removal of causes from State courts, and for other purposes.

37. An act relating to the punishment of the crime of manslaughter.

38. An act to enable the people of Colorado to form a constitution and State government, and for the admission of the said State into the Union on an equal footing with the original States.

39. An act to establish the boundary line between the State of Arkansas and the Indian country.

40. An act supplementary to the acts in relation to immigration.

41. An act to reduce and fix the Adjutant General's Department or the army.

42. An act authorizing the coinage of a twenty cent piece of silver at the mints of the United States.

43. An act to punish certain larcenies, and the receivers of stolen goods.

44. An act to prohibit deductions from the terms of sentence of United States prisoners.

45. An act to change the name of the port of Noblebore to Damariscotta.

46. An act authorizing the appointment of gangers for the customs service at the port of Philadelphia.

47. An act to transfer the county of Perry, in the State of Tennessee, from the Western to the Middle Judicial district of the United States in said State.

48. An act to provide for deducting any debt due the United States from any judgment recovered against the United States by such debtor.

49. An act to make East Pascagoula, in the State of Mississippi, a port of delivery in the district of Pearl river.

50. An act to protect ornamental and other trees on Government reservations and on land purchased by the United States, and for other purposes.

51. An act granting to railroads the right of way through the public lands of the United States.

52. An act to amend sections one thousand six hundred and seventy-five, one thousand six hundred and seventy-six, one thousand six hundred and eighty-one, and one thousand six hundred and eighty-two of the Revised Statutes of the United States.

53. An act to amend section numbered three thousand three hundred and forty-two of the Revised Statutes of the United States in relation to affixing stamps on brewers' casks.

54. An act to amend section fourteen hundred and twenty-two of the Revised Statutes of the United States relating to the better government of the navy.

55. An act to promote the economy and efficiency in the marine hospital service.

56. An act to abolish the consulate at Amoor river and establish a consulate at Vladivostock, Russia, and for other purposes.

57. An act to establish certain post roads.

In addition to these there were passed 77 acts not of a general nature, and 101 private acts.

PUNISHING THE POSTAL SWINDLERS.

Warrants have been issued for the arrest of James Van Vleck, late clerk in the Sixth Auditor's office, and F. L. Channel, clerk in the Contract office, implicated in the postal frauds recently discovered. Van Vleck was yesterday removed by order of the Secretary of the Treasury. The reason for Channel's removal has not yet been issued, but the impression in the department. Colt and Floyd, who confessed their participation in the frauds, are held as witnesses against the persons who persisted in denying their guilt. The warrant for the arrest of Van Vleck and Channel are based on the affidavits of special agent Woodward, charging them with conspiracy, bribing and accepting bribes. The penalty prescribed is fine and imprisonment not exceeding three years. The Postmaster General has issued an order that no employee of the department shall exhibit any record or paper of the department to, or hold conversation during office hours with and contractor, or agent or attorney of a contractor, except upon an order of the Postmaster General, Assistant Postmaster General, Chief Clerk, or chiefs of the division.

DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENT.

The President has appointed Richard Gibbs, of New York, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to Peru.

THE MARINE BAND GOES TO BOSTON.

The Marine Band left to-day in the United States steamer Talapoosa for Boston, to take part in the battle of Lexington centennial.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, April 10, 1875.

MRS. TILTON'S EVIDENCE KEPT OUT.

In the Assembly, yesterday, the bill to permit a wife to testify for or against her husband in civil actions and criminal trials was reported adversely by the Judiciary Committee and the report agreed to. Similar disposition was made of Speaker McGuire's bill allowing a wife to testify against her husband or in behalf of another person in cases of *crim. con.* It is probable no more efforts to alter the laws of evidence, in any way that would effect the Beecher trial, will be made in the Assembly.

OPENING OF THE NEW "TRIBUNE" BUILDING.

The new *Tribune* building was formally opened this morning, the thirty-fifth anniversary of the birthday of the newspaper, and was visited by crowds of people throughout the day. In the afternoon the editorial and city staff made a present of a magnificent piece of silver to Mr. Whitelaw Reid, inscribed with a picture of the new building and the monograms "H. G., 1841," and "W. R., 1875." Dr. Geo. Ripley made the presentation speech, gracefully complimenting Mr. Reid, and Mr. Reid responded in a brief and appreciative address.

PEDESTRIAN CONTEST.

The walking match between Daniel O'Leary, of Chicago, and John Dewitt, of New York, of one hundred miles for $1,000, was won by O'Leary, who completed the distance in twenty-three hours, fifty-three minutes and fourteen seconds, and the last mile in nine minutes and eighteen seconds. Dewitt gave up on the fifty-seventh mile.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

Mr. Algernon Sartoris, President Grant's son-in-law, sailed to-day for England.

Dan Bryant, the well-known minstrel performer, died this afternoon of pneumonia.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

Probabilities for Today—For the Middle States, light winds, and falling barometer during the day, followed by rising barometer and a slight fall in temperature. For the Lake region local rains with cool, partly cloudy weather, north to west winds and rising barometer. For the Ohio Valley, cool and rising barometer. The Ohio river will fall slowly. The Upper Mississippi will rise.

John Jay, the late Minister to Austria, has sailed for the United States.

The steamers Mosel, from Bremen, and Baltic, from Liverpool, have arrived at New York.

Di Murska closed a brilliant season at Memphis last night by a second concert, and left for New Orleans.

A large meeting was held in Omaha last Saturday night by citizens interested in the Black Hills movement.

T. & E. DeWolf & Co., Halifax, N. S., commission and shipping merchants, have failed. Their liabilities are reported at $150,000.

The steamer Rietz arrived at Chicago on Saturday from the eastern shore of Lake Michigan. She reports large fields of ice still in the lake.

A carriage and span of horses were presented, on Saturday, in New York, to Cardinal McCloskey by a few prominent Catholics of that city.

The *Pioneer and Press* of St. Paul, Minnesota, have consolidated, and the first number of the new paper is to be issued this morning.

The proprietors of Mystic Park, Boston, announce a purse of $10,000 for the second annual stallion race, open to stallions of Canada and the United States.

A party of Kansas journalists and citizens are visiting Galveston for pleasure and the furtherance of commercial relations by the Southwestern route.

The Gibson county Ku-Klux were acquitted in the United States Circuit Court at Memphis, Saturday, Judge Ballard recommending their discharge as the evidence failed to establish their guilt.

George Reynolds, of Salt Lake City, was sentenced by Judge Emerson on Saturday, to one year in the penitentiary. Brigham was re-elected prophet by the annual Mormon conference held on the same day.

Hon. William S. Groesbeck, of Cincinnati, is stated to have donated $50,000 to the Burnet Woods Park of that city. The interest of the money is to be used in defraying the expenses of music in the park.

A band of raiding Mexicans surrounded the town of Roma, Texas, on the night of the 2d instant, with the supposed intent of robbing the custom house. Learning that Captain Bryer's company of troops were in the town, the Mexicans left without venturing an attack.

C. O. Trowbridge, of Detroit, has been appointed provisional receiver of the Detroit and Milwaukee Railway with the consent of all the parties connected with the financial troubles of that corporation. He will at once discharge the employees, and on June 15th the courts will consider the propriety of appointing a permanent receiver.

The telegraph reports an expedition to the Black Hills, to consist of one thousand men from Kansas City, Missouri, under Colonel Carpenter, commander of the Jessie scouts during the war. They expect to leave about the 25th inst. They will go to Denver, thence to Cheyenne, where they will be joined by other parties, swelling the whole number to eighteen hundred men. They will be fully armed, and able to cope with any body of Indians they may meet.

A Brownsville, Texas, special says it is reported that Clarke and his men have killed French Louis and a man named Tarres at La Prairie. Capt. Clous returned with his command yesterday morning. It is reported that the men implicated with the raiders are coming to grief, but no details are received. The raiders complain of General Cortina. He allows them two dollars a head for beeves, and four dollars for each horse they bring from Texas. They say they are compelled to take these low prices, because he finds them out and they must sell to him.

White River
now arriving in bags and barrels.

CRIMINAL RECORD.

Fight Between Arkansas Citizens and Robbers.

MEMPHIS, TENN., April 10.—For some time past numerous robberies have been committed in the neighborhood of Chicot, Arkansas, and the citizens believed that they were perpetrated by a regularly organized band of robbers. They have been quietly on the watch for them for some time. On last Thursday night five men were observed entering the warehouse of G. Marlion, located on the river bank, and the alarm was given. The citizens soon surrounded the building, and the robbers opened fire on them, which was returned and two of the robbers were killed, and another jumped out of a window into the river and was drowned. The remaining two were captured. The next day numerous persons suspected of being in league with the band, were found to have disappeared, having fled from fear of the prisoners implicating them.

St. Louis Murders.

ST. LOUIS, April 10.—Another wife killer has been sentenced to be hanged. Wm. Morgan, an old man, who murdered his wife on the street, on July 27, 1874, and was convicted at the last term of the Criminal Court, was brought before Judge Jones to-day and sentenced to be hanged on Friday, the 28th of May.

A farmer named McKinzie, living five miles from Greenville, Illinois, was murdered in his bed, night before last, and then dragged to the stable and placed under the feet of a pair of mules. His wife and son were arrested on suspicion of having committed the deed.

Burglaries in Columbus.

COLUMBUS, April 11.—The store of John Marsetti, an Italian fruit merchant, was entered by burglars last night and six hundred dollars in money was stolen from the clothing of a clerk asleep in the room. A mob of burglars have been working the city for some days.

Sentenced for Rape.

ST. CATHERINES, ONT., April 11.—Mathias Konkie was sentenced to-day to be hanged for an outrage on a little girl, committed at Beamesville, in November last.

Revolting Case of Infanticide and Incest.

ST. LOUIS, April 11.—The *Republican* has the following special from Kansas City: Benjamin L. Jessie was convicted at Wyandotte, Kansas, yesterday, of manslaughter in the first degree for causing the death of an infant boy by leaving it out in the cold to perish. Jessie belongs to one of the oldest families of Clay county, and his wife is worth fifty thousand dollars. The child which was frozen to death was his own, borne to him by his sixteen-year old daughter.

THE LABOR DISPUTES.

THE SITUATION AT HAZLETON.

HAZLETON, April 11.—Adjutant General Latta arrived here to-day, and had a conference with the Sheriff and citizens, under orders of the Governor, relative to the withdrawal of the military asked for by a delegation of citizens. Miners and others favoring the recall of the troops, promised the Sheriff sufficient force to protect the workingmen. Subsequently those favoring the detention of the military, met the Adjutant General and Sheriff and discussed the gravity of the situation. The Adjutant General has not yet reported to the Governor the result of his visit. A special policeman from Philadelphia who had been running one of the pump engines at Eckley, was shot on the way to work, by a man taken by two men into the woods and threatened with instant death if he did not stop work. One of the men has been arrested and released on bail.

POSITION OF THE COTTON MILL OWNERS AT LOWELL.

LOWELL, April 11.—The mill corporations scout at the idea of treating with a committee of mule spinners on the question of wages. They express a willingness to talk with their own employees on the subject at any time, but not with deputations of secret societies. They hold they would prefer to shut down for three months rather than accede to the demands of the operatives, and that the rise in goods would more than compensate for the loss.

The Pottsville *Miners' Journal* says that the supply of coal sent from the coal regions, so far this year, is 4,015,992 tons, against 3,929,350 during the same period last year. The decrease in the supply of anthracite is 927,395 tons.

POLITICAL.

State

Mercer county has forty candidates for nomination to the office of Sheriff—just evenly divided politically.

The Philadelphia *Times* is authority for the statement that Hon. B. B. Strang will not be a candidate for the Republican nomination for State Treasurer.

The Mauch Chunk *Democrat* denies the truth of the report in circulation that the friends of Judge Asa Packer will present his name to the Democratic State Nominating Convention as a candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania.

A contemporary, referring to the fact that Col. Hartshorn has been appointed a member of the staff of Gen. Hartranft, says "the Governor wants a little Hartshorn by him against election time." O, no. The Governor on election day, will scout the enemy from afar—in his rear—and so a disinfectant will not be necessary.—*Norristown Herald.*

Two members of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives died on Thursday last—William Bardsley, Republican, of the Seventh district of Philadelphia, and Chas. Willett, Democrat, Oakford, Bucks county. Both were serving their first annual term. Four members of the House died before they were qualified, viz.: Messrs. Hunter, of Armstrong; Batdorf, of Berks; Wolf, of Centre, and Farrer, of Washington; and Hagan, of Philadelphia—all in a few days after he took his seat. Thus seven members, elected in November last, have passed away. The five vacancies made last winter were filled in February, and the two existing vacancies will be filled in November next.

A Harrisburg special of the Philadelphia *Press* says: "It is now asserted by well-informed Democratic circles, that Hon. Andrew H. Dill, Senator from the Union district, will decline being a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Governor. No special reason is assigned for this action, but it is asserted that an older and stronger man is to be selected, to come either from the center or the western part of the State. There are those who believe that this declination is to be in favor of ex-Governor Curtin, whose personal friends are working very hard to put him on the track as a Liberal Republican and Democratic candidate."

General.

Governor Leslie, of Kentucky, is a very prominent candidate for the United States Senatorship from that State. The Hon. James B. Beck is his most formidable rival.

Jus let a man's name be mentioned as a possible candidate for the Presidency and then see what remarkable stories will spring up in regard to him. The latest we have touching ex-Speaker Blaine is the intimation of a Pittsburgh paper that he is a Roman Catholic. As Mr. Blaine has been for nearly twenty years a consistent member of the orthodox Congregational church, in this, the city of his home, the Catholic rumor may be classed as highly amusing. Orthodox Congregationalism in Maine, our Pittsburgh contemporary will please observe, is precisely the same creed as Presbyterianism in Pennsylvania, and both differ somewhat, we believe, from the dogmas of the Church of Rome.—*Kennebec, Me., Journal.*

This is the *Herald's* photograph of New York Democracy: "Wickham does not love Green; Green does not love Kelly; Kelly does not love Lent; Lord does not love Tilden; Tilden does not love Fitz John Porter; Speaker McCabe does not love the 'black horse cavalry,' the black horse cavalry kick out of the party traces; and, in one word, there is no love lost between any of the Democratic leaders or any of the personal factions that ecanpose their followers. In the great Democratic jubilation over Mr. Tilden's election, held at the Manhattan Club last fall, the Governor-elect expressed the opinion that a healthy and useful political party must consist of honest men who think alike on public questions, and for this translation of a trite Latin phrase he was praised by his admirers."

Mr. Lamar, Congressman from Mississippi, has been giving his view as to the chances of the Democracy in the Presidential contest. He thinks "they can elect Charles Francis Adams, or Judge Davis, of the Supreme Court—either of them with a large degree of certainty. Either of these men can consolidate the whole opposition vote. They could carry the Liberal Conservative element without trouble, and the Democratic organization leading this can carry the country. I think either one of these men could be elected by an overwhelming majority. It is probable that neither could be elected by the same influences. He is an immense power, and possibly the ablest man in the Republican party."

Trade Mark Patented.

The White River Brand is patented as a trade mark. All persons found refilling my bags or barrels with other flour or using the name White River on flour, in any form, are hereby notified that proceedings will be brought against all offenders.

T. C. JENKINS.

OHIO NEWS

Zanesville wants a street railway.

Defiance is to have a $26,000 church.

Akron has a new paper, called the *Household.*

Fishing has begun in all the Lake Erie streams.

Circleville is to have a new $20,000 Masonic Temple.

Christian Mull, of Troy, near Mansfield, hung himself on Monday.

Amherst College will receive from the estate of the late Samuel Williston $250,000.

The Commercial.

MONDAY, APRIL 12, 1875.

AFTER the flood the ark rested on a mountain. After Connecticut came Rhode Island.

IN ILLINOIS women are now eligible for appointment as notaries public. The Governor on Saturday approved an act of the Legislature to this effect.

HON. JOHN CESSNA denies the report that he is an applicant for the position of Assistant United States Attorney General, or any other office under the Government.

THE Philadelphia courts have just decided that coroners have the same power to compel the attendance of witnesses at inquests which they are required to hold, that other judicial officers possess.

DANA, of the New York *Sun*, is beginning to complain of the "attacks" upon him by the reputable portion of the press. It is a good sign, for when a man is sensitive about the truth there is really some hope for improvement.

SAM. BARD, who was recently removed from the postmastership of Atlanta, Georgia, reached Washington on Saturday for the purpose of "seeing about it." SAM has often laid hold of the coat-tails of greatness, but his grip is a little weak.

THERE is an incredible rumor that SMALLEY, the London correspondent of the New York *Tribune*, is about to be appointed to an important diplomatic post in Europe. It would be a gross blunder. He is intellectually too narrow-waisted.

The Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore papers make long and loud complaints over the filthy condition of the streets of those cities. What a pleasant contrast to this miserable state of affairs does the clean and healthy condition of our own city thoroughfares present!

THE Canadian Parliament has adjourned. Nearly every seat in that body was contested, about forty per cent. of the whole number of members were unseated, and ten per cent. of those unseated were disqualified for re-election on account of bribery. And yet, forsooth, it was a "reform" Parliament!

THERE is some talk in Chicago of a combination among vessel owners to advance freights. Such attempts have been made in past years, and have almost invariably failed, and how they expect to accomplish anything now, when the railroads are carrying grain through to New York at summer lake and canal rates, is a conundrum beyond ordinary comprehension.

CARDINAL MANNING expresses a belief that the Roman Catholic Church is "approaching a crisis, the most serious for three hundred years." This prognostication points to the realization of DISRAELI's political prophecy of a great religious war in Europe. A combination of the Catholic nations of Europe against Germany does not, from present appearances, seem at all impossible.

THE total receipts of the five steamer lines between New York and Liverpool last year were $30,153,885, against $37,577,250 for 1873, a decrease of $27,423,365. In contrast with these figures the American line, sailing from Philadelphia, may be considered to have done remarkably well, its adverse balance being only $18,914. The present year promises to prove a remarkably prosperous one for that company.

A FACT full of suggestive import is that in consequence of the almost universal industrial disorganization in Great Britain, the English manufacturers are becoming seriously alarmed for the future, and are beginning to consider whether, after all, a larger customs revenue, with incidental protection, and less internal taxation, would not be a good thing for the country. What significance do our own free trade doctrinaires discern in it?

NOW, how is this? Last month 4,529 persons, irrespective of race, color, or previous condition, were fed at the New Orleans soup-house, of which number only one hundred and three were colored, while out of 4,078 who applied for lodgings at the same soup-house, only sixty-eight were colored. This element in the population of that city is about as one to three. It is clear that the bulk of the pauperism of that hot-bed of white Leaguism is not black.

THE *Iron Age* compares the market value of the five principal metals of commerce, other than iron, at the close of March, 1874, and the present year, as follows:

March 31.	1874. Currency.	Gold.	Cur'ncy.	Gold.
Lake copper	24½c.	21½c.	22½c.	18½c.
Domestic lead	----	6½c.	----	5½c.
Pig tin	30c.	26½c.	24c.	21c.
Domestic spelter	7½c.	6¼c.	6½c.	5¼c.
Antimony	12½c.	11c.	12½c.	11c.

From this comparison it will be seen that metals are unduly depressed. Any permanent improvement must of course, depend upon legitimate consumption, and as this gives promise of a steady and sustained increase, the metal markets should soon feel the impulse.

IT is reported that the Kansas Pacific Railway has been sold to the Union Pacific Company, and that both lines will be operated by the latter management. This company, since JAY GOULD obtained control of the Pacific Mail Steamship Company, the only competitor, has increased its freight rates. It is the greatest monopoly we have in the country, notwithstanding that the road was built by Congressional assistance. The Court of Claims, it is understood, is soon to hear a case involving the right of the Government to obtain its debts from this road by witholding from it a certain percentage of its earnings in transportation for the public service. The company owes the Government a great deal of money, and should be made to pay it to the last penny.

THE Cincinnati *Enquirer* the other day published, with a flourish, a letter from its Indianapolis correspondent, stating that Hon. JOHN C. NEW, the newly appointed United States Treasurer, sometime ago procured the indictment of one JOHN KISTLER upon a charge of blackmail, and that under such such indictment he was tried and sentenced to the penitentiary for four years, the impression intended to be conveyed being that the convict was an injured man, a mere victim of superior position and wealth. The Secretary of the Grand Jury that indicted KISTLER, however, explodes the whole story by denying, explicitly, that Mr. NEW had any instrumentality in procuring the indictment; there was no evidence that any attempt was made to blackmail him; the prisoner was indicted on the testimony of other parties, and the entire change of the correspondent is denounced as "utterly untrue." The *Enquirer* will probably fall foul of SPINNER himself, next.

THE last number of the New York *Economist*, a journal of by no means sanguine temperament, after a long and elaborate review of the business outlook, concludes that trade is as active as is possible under the circumstances. The trade of the season in almost every branch of business is in excess, both as regards volume and proceeds, of the same period last year, and is nearly up to the full average of the profitable season of 1873. As an estimate of the future of business, it is calculated that since the beginning of the year a total of a million producers have been added to the great army of industry. In Troy, Albany, and other towns on the Hudson, some ten thousand iron workers and stove makers have gone to work. In all the manufacturing towns in New England and New Jersey, and the Eastern States generally, the army of industry has been recruited very nearly up to its original quota. The New England cotton and woolen operatives are now in full operation except in a few places where a strike has taken place, although in nearly all cases the operatives have gone to work at reduced wages. The approaching opening of river and canal navigation will also yield employment to hundreds of thousands of steamboatmen, river and deck hands, and others, thus making the general activity and prospect more complete. The *Bulletin of the Iron and Steel Association* holds similar hopeful views, while with regard to the iron trade, that paper says:

"As the country gradually recovers its natural buoyancy; as it reaches out its arms in the direction of hundreds of minor enterprises which are really needed; as its need of iron to replace worn-out railroad tracks, cars, locomotives, bridges, etc., increases, just in the same proportion will the iron business experience a healthful invigoration. If general business improves, so undoubtedly will the iron business, and general business is improving. Thanks to the ten per cent. legislation of the last Congress, when the demand for iron increases the American iron master and not the foreigner will be called upon to supply that demand. We regard, also, as among the favorable omens for the future of the iron trade the fact that excessive production of iron—production out of all proportion to the wants of the country—has practically come to an end with the blowing out last fall and winter of nearly if not all of a hundred furnaces which were running a year ago."

EDUCATION AT THE SOUTH.

One of the judges in the State of Georgia, in commenting recently upon an act of the Legislature requiring some levy to be made in support of the few public schools in that region, took occasion to denounce all public support of common schools as wrong. It was perfectly proper, he said, that the public should be taxed to educate the indigent, who were unable to educate themselves, but there all obligation stopped. There was no good reason why he, a man of means and property, yet having no children to educate, should be taxed to educate the children of his neighbor, who was able to educate them out of his own means. Every man should bear the cost of educating his own children, unless he be a pauper. The obligation of the State begins only where individual ability ceases.

In reading this over in a Georgia paper it recalled to us the time when, forty years ago, just such arguments were heard in Pennsylvania. The establishment of the common school system in this State was resisted by precisely similar logic. THADEUS STEVENS, and Dr. WORTHINGTON, and the other worthy men who stood up in the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1835 to demand for her children the boon of education, were met by a perfect flood of just such talk as this Georgia judge, in this year of grace 1875, indulges in. The Constitution of 1790, which was superseded by the Constitution of 1838, was, in fact, established upon this Georgia basis, as a section in it required that the Legislature should "provide by law for the establishment of schools throughout the State in such manner that *the poor may be taught gratis.*" There is the Georgia doctrine, constitutionally expressed; with this difference, that the Pennsylvania declaration dates back to 1790, and it was abandoned in 1835, while it breaks out as an apparently original doctrine in Georgia in 1875. The South, forty years after we have abandoned them, takes up our cast-off clothes and puts them on.

It is somewhat astonishing, on first view, to find the South so far behind the times in so vital a matter as public education, and to hear it urging the exploded arguments of a past generation; but, when you come to look closely at Southern affairs, generally, it is not much to be wondered at. Slavery was a demoralizing institution in more senses than one. It left the South a generation behind in every thing. Her agriculture, her enterprise, her intellectual condition are all of the past, and she seems to have been shut out by slavery, as by a Chinese wall, from all the ameliorating effects of modern progress and civilization. The Georgia of 1875 is no more advanced than was the Pennsylvania of 1835; and hence, it is no more surprising to hear a Georgia judge to-day indulging in the arguments we have quoted than it was to hear the same ideas in the halls of Pennsylvania legislation at a time when we first began to break away from the fetters of the past.

It must not be expected that the South should be able to tear herself in a day from all the influences of a degrading past. Give her time. The mills of the gods grind slow, but they are very sure. Progress, like confidence, is a plant of slow growth. We, as Pennsylvanians, went through the same experience in the same way; and the fact that we were forty years ahead of Georgia shows only that we had the advantage of the start. We have had to travel the same road; and when we read such productions as that of the Georgia judge from whom we have quoted, we sympathize with him, for we know how it was ourselves.

NEW YORK RASCALITY.

There is a probability that Governor TILDEN having got all the benefit he can out of his war upon the corrupt Democratic Canal Ring of New York, the exposures made by him will not be very industriously followed up, and that there will be a much stronger effort made to cover over the revelations already made than to extend or amplify them. It will be prudent, therefore, to place upon file, the facts already made public; and for that purpose we quote the following from the New York *Times*:

By a reference to papers on file in the Auditor's office, it is found that the total amount of the contract price of the fifty-four most important contracts, for extraordinary canal repairs, entered into between the years 1868 and 1873, was $1,217,027 40. The final accounts rendered by the contractors amounted to $2,751,220 01, the sum charged in excess of the original contract prices being $1,536,562 61. The following are the names of the contractors and the amounts of their original bids and final accounts:

	Amount original contract.	Final account rendered.
Henry S. Danalds	$ 6,115 00	$ 15,526 29
Lewis M. Lass	10,934 00	15,556 29
Mortimer B. Birdseye	4,155 00	9,622 72
John Dunn	28,187 00	44,320 94
William Mudgett	33,145 00	57,884 65
George M. Case	18,000 00	23,008 81
George M. Case	13,961 00	17,754 15
Nehemiah L. Osburn	1,646 00	2,998 46
George D. Lord	2,877 50	4,053 20
A. Cadwell Belden	925 00	11,767 39
James M. Hendrickle	30,351 00	38,091 00
E. B. Van Dusen	1,897 40	8,895 28
George B. Sherill	6,550 00	32,515 15
Lyman M. Newton	4,305 00	7,651 50
Willard Johnson	3,041 40	6,557 92
E. B. Van Dusen	9,340 00	9,340 27
M. W. Ostrander	10,725 50	33,648 47
E. B. Van Dusen	24,992 00	44,993 62
James T. Severance	5,704 00	12,595 49
J. M. Dygert	3,258 00	8,132 25
A. R. Fielden	14,469 00	56,826 21
Thomas Kinnear	37,946 00	59,567 72
Cyrus & A. G. Rose	7,455 00	13,499 52
Cyrus & A. G. Rose	15,222 12	17,222 12
Joseph J. Belden	88,584 00	222,610 68
William Johnson	56,945 00	222,781 83
James H. Brown	88,562 50	43,253 25
A. Cadwell Belden	9,504 00	68,700 92
Charles Kinnear	27,680 00	99,612 32
Henry G. Jackson	48,845 00	61,282 04
William Mudgett	35,137 00	36,246 50
George Bennehore	21,886 00	78,967 20
E. B. Van Dusen	14,397 00	48,586 00
John F. Hasbrouck	21,467 00	35,594 12
Edward B. Van Dusen	12,693 41	46,098 00
William Mudgett	26,820 00	150,137 94
Charles Kinnear	75,571 94	146,316 01
Henry D. Dennison	9,249 00	31,383 00
N. Stanton Gere	27,570 00	68,006 61
Chas. J. DeGraw	31,319 00	133,451 33
N. L. Osburn	47,620 50	98,857 48
Charles Nichols	27,265 00	34,285 25
Amariah Holbrook	14,163 10	117,054 39
E. W. Williams	62,520 00	88,913 10
Edward B. Williams	41,120 00	52,505 15
George B. Sherill	8,427 00	30,500 00
George D. Lord	30,500 00	29,335 27
Henry G. Jackson	15,154 25	40,442 98
Emmet Flagler	4,615 10	25,534 65
E. B. Van Dusen	25,534 65	13,570 00
James J. Belden	13,570 00	43,426 32
H. G. Jackson	24,989 00	49,404 17
James P. Beck	12,084 00	16,985 77
Charles J. Degraw	8,084 00	

From this it will be seen that the Democratic Canal Board awarded contracts to its pets, as the lowest bidders, to do a certain amount of work at a certain price, and then paid them more than double that amount when the work was done. In other words, a million and a half of the State's money was stolen within five years and distributed among Democratic contractors by a corrupt Canal Board. That shows the moral benefit, as well as economy of the Democratic rule.

IN VIEW of the vast amount of English capital invested in foreign loans, it is not surprising that a considerable amount of swindling securities should find sale. Last year alone the United States borrowed upward of $100,000,000, represented by bonds of railway and other private companies, and upward of $60,000,000 more by bonds of States and municipalities. The *Financial Chronicle* estimates that Europe is likely to invest more money in our various classes of bonds and securities within the next ten years than during the past decade, though with better judgment and more lucrative returns. In this anticipated current of capital from Europe lies one of the chief instrumentalities relied on by that journal in considering the question of the revival of our dormant industries.

THE New York *Herald* has a beautiful prose poem on Spring, constructed on the most eclectic principles, from which we quote:

Now is heard the sound of vernal showers on the twinkling grass (Shelley), and with his umbrella wanders forth the hyacinthine boy, for whom morn well might break and April bloom (Emerson). Now shall we notice how our swift Spring heaps the orchards full of bloom and scent (Lowell), and the maiden May returns with a pretty haste (Barry Cornwall.) Now do the majority of intelligent people think it better to sport with Amaryllis in the shade or with the tangles of Neæra's hair (Milton) than to creep into some still cavern deep, there to weep and weep and weep (Tennyson). All these and many other things do we see and enjoy now that spring has broken the icy fetters of the silver streams (Wilkesbarre special dispatch), and all nature rejoices that grim-visaged March has smoothed his frosty pow (Burns and Shakespeare). Spring! beautiful spring! has returned with birds and flowers (original), and new fashionable styles in hats, bonnets, dresses (advertisements), influenzas and catarrhs and hundreds of other things make business lively.

THE Russians are discussing the construction of a canal to join together the Caspian and Black seas. It is to be seven hundred and fifty miles long, thus constituting it a far larger and costlier enterprise than the Suez canal.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

Labor is life! 'Tis the still water faileth; Idleness ever despaireth, bewaileth; Keep the watch wound, or the dark rust assaileth.

"Babbleon has fallen." Eli Perkins will not lecture any more.

Spring chickens—the roosters in our Democratic exchanges.

The Baltimore and Charleston Steamship Company has wound up.

A great impetus has recently been given to ship-building on the Pacific coast.

The New York *Tribune* went into its new seven-story palace on Saturday.

With the warm weather the genus loafer has come to the surface again in a swarm.

So it goes. The California Compulsory Education law, passed in 1874, is a dead letter.

King Kalakaua has sent to this country for a military band, to be attached to his "court."

Private Dalzell has at length gone seriously to work. He has become a tombstone agent.

A topographer and an astronomer are to be added to the geologic expedition to the Black Hills.

It must be quite cold in New York, still. The New York *Mail* yet publishes "Fireside Gossip."

A married man in Louisville is named Broombach, and it is said that his life harmonizes with his name.

Talmage says that people should "call things by their right names." That would be rough on his sermons.

Woman's rights. One-third of the population of the globe is now governed by two women, namely, the Chinese.

Kentucky elects a Governor in August, and seven Democratic candidates for the nomination are already in the field.

Water is worth ten cents a bucket in Treasure city, Nevada. But there is a saloon to every sixty-one inhabitants.

There is a very amusing feature in those Postoffice frauds. The Government actually made money by their perpetration.

The Dominion Parliament has wisely declined to assist the parental Government in building the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The "Bung Parliament" is what the irreverent Britisher calls his national legislature, on account of the great number of brewers in it.

Look out. A Special Agent of the Treasury Department has just left Washington to investigate and report upon all Western custom houses.

Two thousand of the captive Indians escaped from Cheyenne Agency the other day and made for the plains. That means more scalping.

Rev. Mr. Sams, of the Manchester, Va., Episcopal church, denies that he dismissed his congregation on account of the presence of a colored woman.

The law and the Gospel. A Connecticut clergyman has just attached the church and parsonage of his parish to secure the payment of his salary.

General Badeau's arrival in the country is supposed to have relation to the speedy publication of his second volume of the Life of General Grant.

It is a curious fact that there are now several important shipments of specie on the way going in opposite directions between Liverpool and New York.

Canadian tea and coffee importers demand that retaliatory measures shall be adopted to meet the ten per cent. tax imposed by our Government.

The Rochester, New York, Board of Education has abandoned all thought of enforcing the compulsory law, owing to the imperfectness of its provisions.

Sixty-five thousand persons have registered themselves in the hotels of Florida since the first of October last; all of them from points north of Mason and Dixon's line.

The stems of wild rice are said to be the best material for the manufacture of paper. Minnesota has heaps of them, and in St. Paul paper exclaims: "There's millions in it."

A curious suit regarding the liabilities of landlords has just been decided in France. It is, that keepers are obliged to wake their guests in the morning when they want to leave by train.

The New Mexico papers resent the charge of general illiteracy of the territorial population, and boast of 128 public schools, 143 teachers, and 5,420 pupils. It has also 50 private schools, with a large pupilage.

The proposed combination between the Erie and Eastern railroads for the establishment of a new through route by way of Newburg, New York, has fallen through. Poughkeepsie will be the point of crossing.

One of the notable features of the times is the great increase of legal business as a result of the panic. It is estimated that there are from thirty to forty per cent. more suits pending in the courts now than two years ago.

When completed, the tunnel under the Hudson river between New York and Jersey cities will afford facilities for five hundred trains of twenty freight cars each per day, without interfering with other traffic.

Churchill county, Nevada, is poor and pious. It has no jail, and until last week never had a criminal. Him the county authorities confined in a shaft two hundred feet in depth, hoisting him to the surface three times a day, and giving him his meals, and then lowering him again to meditate and praise.

PERSONAL.

Vice President Wilson, who was to have sailed for Europe on the 17th inst., has changed his mind. He has concluded that he will not be the first to establish the precedent of a Vice President leaving his country during the term of his office.

Dr. J. C. Waters, of Baltimore, has received from the electors in Ireland an invitation to stand for the representation of Tipperary in the British Parliament, in place of John Mitchel, deceased. Dr. Waters passes, however, remaining in this country.

General Ord has authorized the raising of a company of fifty Indian scouts from Spotted Tail's band, at Fort Laramie, to be commanded by First Lieutenant Emmet Crawford, Third United States Cavalry, and to be employed in patrolling the country adjacent to the Black Hills, to keep out the miners.

Here is another antique set forth by the Chatauqua, New York, *Farmer*: "There is now living in the town of French Creek, Chatauqua county, a woman by the name of Catherine Herrington, who is one hundred and seven years old. She says she was born in Banty Bay, county Cork, Ireland, in the year 1768. She is very high, probably less than one hundred pounds; has good hearing, and sees to read the finest type without glasses."

The Petersburg (Va.) *Index-Appeal* says: "Parties from New York, representing the Tilton side of the great scandal now on trial in Brooklyn, have been in Petersburg within the last two or three days hunting up evidence in rebuttal of the negro Woodley's testimony some days ago. It is said the mission was attended with success, and that several more Petersburg darkies will shortly appear on the witness stand in Brooklyn."

Mr. Paul Boyton undertook a tremendous task in his attempt to cross the channel from Dover to Boulogne on Saturday, but he succeeded. His apparatus is a sort of water-proof armor, so weighted that he stands perpendicular in the water, and partly submerged. He paddled himself across in twelve or thirteen hours, although the distance is fifty miles. His success will be a long step toward the realization of a wild dream.

A curious parallel to the story told by the Tichborne claimant has recently come to light in England. A young English nobleman having fallen into dissipation left England, sailed about the world, and finally reached Australia. There he took service as a shepherd, and for seven years kept sheep for a farmer. One day, while packing up something in a piece of an English newspaper, his eye was caught by an advertisement stating that his father had died, the title and property fallen to himself, and offering £200 for his discovery. This shepherd-lord actually managed to get the money offered for the discovery of himself, drank it up, and refused to leave Australia. Knowing the family banker, he sends pretty regularly for money.

THE imported brandies, wines, cordials, gin, and other spirits for the year ending June 30, 1874, had a value, duly included, of $6,300,000. They amounted in all to nearly 2,000,000 gallons. The domestic distilleries furnished in the same year 65,000,000 gallons to the trade. The brewers added 9,000,000 barrels or 270,000,000 gallons of malt liquors. The imported liquors cost the consumer about $12,000,000; the native liquors cost him about $200,000,000, and the malt liquors $200,000,000 more, a total of a little more than $400,000,000, or $10 to the head of the population. But as the number of those who drink is probably not more 5,000,000, the amount for each is $80 per annum, $1 50 a week, 25 cents a day as the average. The sum looks large, but a "nation of drunkards" cannot be made on 25 cents a day. Consequently some drunkards must get more than their share.

The illicit Georgia distillers believe the surveying instruments of the United States coast survey are designed for the express purpose of spying out hidden still houses, and for miles around, whenever the latter appear, they take up their stills, hitch up their teams and make tracks.

FROM FLORIDA.

The St. John's River—Alligators—Captain Shaw Calls them from the Vasty Deep—Points of Interest—Dark-skinned Oranges—Pittsburgh Pets—Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher Invited to Subscribe for the "Commercial" for Reliable Information—Green Cove Springs—Tocoi and the St. Augustine Railroad—Pilatka—Oranges for Shipment to Europe.

Special Correspondence of Pittsburgh Commercial.

The trip up the St. John's river is, for those who have not yet enjoyed it, a pleasure to anticipate, and something to ever hold in pleasant recollection after once experiencing its delights. Unlike other rivers it flows directly north nearly four hundred miles, and for a considerable distance is a chain of lakes, the land being scarcely visible at times: the average width is said to be a mile and a half from Lake George to the mouth of the river. The upper river is narrow and to a Northern eye decidedly picturesque. The live oak, magnolia, palmetto and wild orange all assert claims to the supremacy in attractive powers, and one is at a loss to decide to which the crown belongs, each so unlike the other, and all of royal line. The current is not strong and is influenced by the tide a distance of more than one hundred miles; freshets and sudden rises are quite unknown, the most celebrated high water mark being scarcely five feet above the ordinary level; the water is dark in color, and the banks of the river are generally low, an elevation of from ten to twenty feet being designated a bluff.

Shooting alligators, as they lazily lie sunning themselves on the water's edge, is a favorite pastime for passengers. It is said that some river pilots can recognize one at the distance of half a mile; the wateh word "alligator" brings all hands to the front, and results at times in a fearful waste of powder and ball, but few shots from unskilled sportsmen being effective.

Wild duck and other water fowl abound in flocks; shad of delicious flavor are caught in large numbers, and there is no lack of other fish of choice variety.

The Charleston and Savannah steamers run as far up as Pilatka, a half-dozen others go as far as Enterprise, 210 miles above Jacksonville; but only two, the Volusia and Lollie Boy, receive passengers for Lake Harney and Salt Lake, which is practically the head of navigation. It was our good fortune to secure state-room No. 10 on the "nobby" little steamer Lollie Boy for the round trip, and the genial captain made it a source of so much pleasure that we were constrained to repeat the excursion after an interval of two weeks. Capt. Shaw is reputed to have been born on the St. John's and baptized as captain, so perfectly at home is he in the command of his popular steamer; untiring in his efforts to add to the comfort and pleasure of those who entrust themselves to his care, he seems to anticipate and provide for every reasonable want. What he does not know of the St. John's river is hardly worth inquiring about, and alligators seem to come and go at his bidding; for our especial benefit he called out the "oldest inhabitant," some eighteen feet in length, who defied the bullets of the most expert marksmen.

We found five days and nights suffice for the round trip, and the captain so arranged it that the points passed at night going up were visited by day on our return.

Leaving Jacksonville in the morning, after a ride of ten miles we touched at Black Point on the west bank of the river to discharge some freight for C. D. Bright, Esq., of whose plantation we gave some account in our last letter; two miles further on we landed at Mulberry Grove, a charming locality, the favorite resort of picnics, but not a point of general interest. As we steam onward three miles and cross to the eastern side we touch at Mandarin, celebrated as the residence of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, but not a point of any commercial importance. We had only twenty minutes here, but, determined to make the best of our time, left the boat for a short tour of observation. As we approached the house the ladies who had been occupying the piazza made a general stampede for the inner apartments, as we supposed to avoid an "interview," but our lady companion said they had their morning wrappers on, and "that's what's the matter." We called for Uncle Tom's Cabin in but couldn't see it.

There was a small settlement here at an early date, but during the Indian wars the Seminoles massacred its inhabitants. Here we see an orange grove in full bearing for the first time. The groves we noticed further northward were all young trees, and we doubted if this fruit is sufficiently hardy south to be without danger from destructive frosts. The dark skinned oranges we find in the Jacksonville market are from this locality, and are locally known as "Florida Pets," for despite their dusky hue, they had been very good at heart.

But why call them "Pets," Mrs. Stowe's oranges be so dark? In vain we asked the question. Please refer to some Democratic friend for a solution of the problem.

Mrs. Henry Ward Beecher is the reputed owner of some fifteen acres of valuable land near the residence of Mrs. Stowe. We merely note the fact to remind her that the time for subscription to the DAILY COMMERCIAL will pay for this and other valuable information; Reuben Miller's cottage looks wholesome appetite, because they eat the stomach to dispose of it more readily. It is the very fact that it facilitates digestion that renders the malted stomachic such a powerful conductor of nature in instituting those recuperative processes which result in the recovery of the general health. Uninterrupted, vigorous action of the physical machinery inevitably results from the use of this supreme invigorant and alterative.

Green Cove Springs, thirty miles from Jacksonville, is also on the west bank of the river. The boat touches here, this the principal attraction, and are somewhat celebrated for their curative properties. The water is used internally and for bathing. The temperature being just right for the latter bath, but for drinking purposes improved by a little ice; some soda water man might do a profitable business by bottling it from the fountain. Its taste and appearance it resembles Blue Lick, a little goes a good ways until one becomes accustomed to it. The bathing accommodations are good, and invalids find it one of the most pleasant points on the river for a protracted stay. Near the landing we see a grove of bananas, but they have come under our notice. The plants are cultivated like corn, and a banana patch has some slight resemblance to a patch of corn. The leaves, like those of the plants, however, being about twice the size. They are very sensitive and will not grow further north, and will not bear perfection even here; each stalk bears but one bunch of bananas, and the bud, a continuation of the original flower somewhat resembling an Indian corn tassel in bearing the fruit, the weight of which has turned the stalk downward in a graceful curve. Each stalk bears but a single bunch of fruit and then dies, another one springing from the root to take its place. The plant commences to bear the third year and as a new shoot arises each year, there are three stalks in every hill when the plant is in bearing.

Picolati, on the opposite bank, 44 miles above Jacksonville, is the site of an ancient Spanish settlement, no vestiges of which, however, remain at present. It is said that a magnificent church and monastery and the brotherhood of "Franciscan Friars," were in existence here more than two hundred years ago. The present improvements are the ingenious, but unsuccessful 1872 this was a point of more than ordinary interest to the tourist, and approached with many misgivings, as all passengers for St. Augustine were here transferred to stages in which there was always room for one more, the sides being more elastic than the springs.

Tocoi, five miles beyond Picolati, is now the point at which St. Augustine passengers leave the river.

The railroad, formerly constructed with wooden rails, and equipped with horse cars drawn by mules, has recently been relaid with iron rails and a nobby little steam engine supersedes the mule power; it is reported that a railway passenger coach will soon take the place of the two horse cars that now make up the train. Distance from here to St. Augustine fifteen miles, time from one to two hours, according to circumstances; fare two dollars, to which must be added fifty cents for omnibus fare, as the eastern terminus of the road is some distance from the ancient city, and the usual gratuities for handling baggage. Imprecations long and loud have been breathed against the management of this road, but we think with great injustice. We presume the stockholders made their investment with a view to profit, and so long as they furnish the public all the accommodations they agree to, and at advertised prices, we see no grounds for complaint.

Pilatka, on the west bank of the river, one hundred miles from the ocean, and seventy-five miles above Jacksonville, has a population of nearly two thousand, and is the most important point on the river after leaving Jacksonville. It was well known as a military post during the Indian wars. It is at the head of navigation for ocean steamers, two of which make the round trip between here and Charleston once a week; telegraphic wires connect with all parts of the United States, and the traveler feels that he is still within speaking distance of home. The hotel accommodations are not surpassed by any in the State. The streets are sandy but well shaded with live oak, cypress, magnolia and wild orange, the latter, to our mind, when delicately draped with Florida moss, and rich with golden fruit and fragrant flowers, the most ornamental of trees, and a sight one never can forget.

The wharf, extending some five hundred feet along the river front, serves for a promenade, and it is an interesting study to note the crowds that come and go as the steamers land. At this point passengers for the Ocklawaha disembark. The famous orange groves of Col. Hart and Dr. Moragne have given a national reputation to Pilatka. The Doctor told us some marvellous stories of his success in the shipment of oranges to Europe, but as we had been noting the prices of foreign oranges in New York as compared with the Florida fruit, we suspected there was more pride than profit in the transaction. For alligator stories, the Pilatka papers beat the world. H.

POINTS FOR THE DRUG TRADE.

An Important Letter Explaining the Stamp Tax and Other Matters of General Interest.

WASHINGTON, April 5.—The following letter contains matters of interest to the drug trade generally throughout the United States:

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF INTERNAL REVENUE,
WASHINGTON, March 30, 1875.

To F. D. Sewall, Supervisor, Boston, Massachusetts:

SIR: Yours of the 23d inst. is received and contents noted. You state that some of the druggists of Boston claim that, under the first clause of section 22, act of February, 1875, officinal medicines prepared in accordance with a formula published in any standard medical authority are not liable to any stamp tax if the formula and where found are distinctly referred to on the printed label—in other words, without the formula itself being printed on the label as held by this office, they claiming that the condition of said section is sufficiently complied with if there is published on the label the dispensatory, or pharmacopoia, or pharmaceutical journal, with the page where such formula is published.

In reply, I have to inform you that such a reference as you have indicated does not in the opinion of this office answer the requirements of the law. It will be noticed that the statute does not simply provide for a reference to the medical authority where the formula is published. Two things are required to be distinctly referred to, to wit, "formula and where found." This office is of opinion that the shortest, easiest and most definite manner of referring distinctly both to the "formula and where found" is the manner prescribed in office letter of March 4, but does not insist upon the publication in full in the formula. If, in addition to the other matter printed on the label, the name of the medicine, dose, directions, &c., the maker or compounder distinctly sets forth that the article is made, prepared or compounded by him according to a published formula, and gives the medical authority, the book, edition, page, &c., of the medical journal, the volume, and page, or the number and page; and, if two or more different formulas are given by the same authority on the same page, designating the particular formula by its number on the page as No. 1 or No. 2, and distinct, this office will regard the condition of exemption complied with. Modifying the rulings and decisions of the office as heretofore published in special 145, to correspond with the changes as required by the 22d section of the act of February, 1875, the following summary is given for your direction, and that of revenue officers generally, with regard to the present liability of medicines and medicinal preparations to stamp tax under the law in force.

First. That all patent and proprietory medicines and medicinal preparations, all such medicines, &c., for which any proprietory claim is made, real or pretended, must be stamped when sold, offered, or exposed for sale.

Second. That officinal and standard medicines, &c., prepared according to formulas published in authorized medical books or journals, put up and labelled simply with the names of the articles and the name of the maker or compounder, are exempt from tax without the "formula and where found" being printed or referred to in any manner upon such label.

Third. That officinal medicines put up in a style or manner similar to patent medicines or proprietary medicines in general, the same being in retail packages with labels attached, stating diseases for which they are remedies, stating the dose and giving directions for use, are liable to stamp tax, unless in addition to such matter as indicated above there shall be also printed on the label the formula and the reference to the standard medical book or journal where such formula is found, or a distinct announcement that the article in question is made or compounded according to a published formula, with a distinct reference to the standard authority where found, in the manner hereinbefore described. In this latter case such medicines, as so put up, are not liable to stamp tax.

Fourth. Unofficinal medicines, or medicines, etc., made, prepared or compounded, but not in accordance with formula published in any standard dispensatory or pharmacopeia, pharmaceutical journal, etc., are liable to stamp tax, unless the exact formula is printed on the labels attached to such articles, and unless there is an assessment of all dues to any proprietorship in the making or preparing of the same.

Very respectfully,
J. W. DOUGLASS, Commissioner.

The prevalent mining fever East and West has also tended to revive mining operations in the Southern States, especially in Georgia.

A Tonic of Rare Merit.

There are many tonics, but few indeed which produce any other effect than artificial stimulation of the appetite. The true tonic, being a benefit, is a positive detriment, if the digestive organs are weak, because it induces to partake of food in excess of that which digested stomach can act upon, and thus aggravates indigestion. There is but one tonic which possesses the rare merit of imparting both vigor and regularity to the operations of nutrition. Hostetter's Stomach Bitters provokes a wholesome appetite, because they enable the stomach to dispose of it more readily. It is the very fact that it facilitates digestion that renders the malted stomachic such a powerful conductor of nature in instituting those recuperative processes which result in the recovery of the general health. Uninterrupted, vigorous action of the physical machinery inevitably results from the use of this supreme invigorant and alterative.

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We also set Grates and do Job Bricklaying. We also sell the Magic Cooking Range. All orders left at No. 19 Isabella street or at the Toll House of Suspension Bridge will receive prompt attention.

FINANCE AND TRADE.

SATURDAY EVENING, April 10, 1875.

The statement of the condition of the New York associated banks, as received by wire to-day, is as follows:

Loans, decrease	$1,291,100
Specie, increase	1,833,000
Legal tenders, decrease	1,416,900
Deposits, increase	1,017,000
Circulation, increase	68,200
Reserve, increase	$1,767,700

The gold clique having relaxed their efforts to corner the market, cash gold is making its appearance in the street, and the large increase in that item of the reserve is seen in the favorable report above given. Nearly five millions of gold has again come into the hands of the banks, which brings up the reserve held to more than three millions in excess of the amount held last week. Gold remains steady at 115¼, with no artificial effort to advance or depress the premium.

Union Pacific is strong, advancing from 72½ to 73¼, and is held by wealthy parties who promise still higher prices for it. Lake Shore shows a decline of ¾ in face of the report of increased earnings and the assurance that the next dividend will certainly be paid. Wabash also declined ½, notwithstanding that better things are promised for it. A meeting of stockholders has been called for Monday, when the following propositions, recommended by the directors, will be submitted for action: First, to increase the capital stock five millions; second, to increase the preferred stock five millions; third, to equally assess shareholders to procure a fund necessary to liquidate the floating debt of the company and pay the past due coupons. It is thought that this meeting will decide the future of the company, and that measures will be adopted equitable to stockholders as well as to bondholders.

The want of confidence in railway securities on the part of investors is not to be wondered at when we see so many evidences of not only recklessness, but of bad faith on the part of managers. During the rapid railway extension of the past few years, in order to obtain control of competing and feeding lines, contracts guaranteeing interest on bonds or dividends on stock have been made, under which the public have been led to make investments of capital, and now that these contracts are found onerous or unprofitable on the part of the lessees, they are repudiated without the least show of compunction and without the least show of honesty, the investors being left to the slow, uncertain and expensive process of litigating with powerful corporations or to whistle for their money. The only excuse offered is that such contracts, not being ratified by the stockholders, are not binding, and that, therefore, being unprofitable, are not to be inforced.

—In local monetary affairs, there is increasing activity and a cheerful tone among business men.

The excitement in Chicago over the advance in the price of lard and grain has communicated itself to our home market, yet our dealers here are judicious and prefer to wait just to see which way Grimalkin proposes to jump before they intrust their fingers too near her claws.

Most of the banks find use for their money if they are not too particular as to the character of the paper offered. The regular bank boards that have been on duty for years have become so accustomed to a certain class of notes and commercial drafts that they are slow to take hold of new names offering or those that have not stood the test of the years of prosperity and adversity. Yet they are learning that there is a rising generation seeking recognition, and that from these must come the enterprise and energy which is to make the future commercial history of our city.

—The following is the report of the Pittsburgh Clearing House for the week ending with April 10, 1875:

Exchanges received	$4,951,453 18
Exchanges delivered	4,851,458 47
Total	$3,702,916 96
Balances paid	$ 202,181 73
Balances received	202,181 73
Total	$4,414,375 46

OFFICE OF TRASK & STONE,
BANKERS AND BROKERS, No. 7 NEW STREET,
NEW YORK, April 10, 1875.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

Operations to-day in our leading stocks have been, for the most part, confined to manipulators who, it is believed, are endeavoring to increase the interest in Lake Shore, and thereby sell to better advantage. Whether they will succeed is doubtful. This was more apparent in Pacific Mail, which was run up to 43¾ on the report of a meeting of "Magnates" in a way to excite suspicion that they were selling stock, but before the close it conveniently went over large buyers particularly when they discovered how little outside stock there was on the market. Some of the parties were at work in Union Pacific, but handled it differently from Pacific Mail, and only when it declined in sympathy, as did the general market.

The Directors of Panama and also Pacific Mail are in session to-day, but we have no report on it or of their deliberations.

A feature of the day has been the increasing strength and rise in the Pacific Railroad bonds, being particularly strong, the latter advancing to 90, which is also the close.

From all indications we believe that higher prices will rule next week, and that to-day is unsatisfactory to the bear interest.

We quote the market at the close strong for the active stocks.

Yours truly, TRASK & STONE.

—It is pleasant to turn from the many broken-down railroads which are growing worse and worse, and look for a moment at one which seems to be getting better and better.

When the lease of the Northern Pacific was abrogated, the Lake Superior and Mississippi seemed to have an accumulation of misfortune to contend with, but they have been overcome one by one, and we hope the last effort of the enemies has been foiled by the purchase of the necessary laws.

We have always contended that the strength of these bonds lay in the value of the timber upon the land grant. A personal inspection of this land grant, during last summer, has not caused us to change our opinion.—*Hostler's Financial Record.*

—The ordinance permitting the sale of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville road to the Baltimore and Ohio for $1,600,000 passed the second branch of the Baltimore City Council on the first and went to the first branch.

The ordinance, with the report of the committee which submitted the ordinance is that the city now has to pay $120,000 per year for interest on loans, etc., and that the road is already so embarrassed, and will continue so hereafter, realized sufficient to pay the accrued interest on the city's loans, though the interest in the Baltimore and Ohio the city will realize a considerable sum from the proposed sale, besides making it probable that the road will be put in a better financial condition.—*Baltimore American.*

—The following table shows the prices of gold, Government bonds, railway stocks, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day. Furnished by the Fifth National bank, No. 16, Sixth street:

April 10, 1875.	10:30 A. M.	11:30 A. M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	2:30 P. M.	3:30 P. M.
6-20's, 1862, coup	115½	115½	115½	115½	115½	115½
5-20's, 1862	118	118	118			
5-20's, 1864	119¾	119¾	119¾			
5-20's, 1865, new	121¼	121¼	121¼			
5-20's, 1867	121¾	121¾	121¾			
5-20's, 1868, registered	121¾	121¾	121¾			
5-20's, 1868	122¼	122¼	122¼			
10-40's	114¾	114¾	114¾			
6-30's, coupon	110¾	110¾	110¾			
Currency 6's	120½	120½	120½			
New 5 per cents	111	111	111			
Western Union Tel.	78¾	78	77¾	77¾	77¾	77¾
Quicksilver	44	43¾	44	43¾	43¾	43¾
Pacific Mail						43¾
Panama						101
Adams Express						87¾
Wells-Fargo Express						87¾
American Express						53
United States Express						61¾
New York Central	102	102	102	102	102	102
Erie	30	30	30	30	30	30
Michigan Central	93	93	93	93	93	93
Michigan Southern	75¾	75¾	75¾	75¾	75¾	75¾
Illinois Central	92	92¾	92	92	92	92
Cleve. & Pittsburgh	92	92	92	92	92	92
Chicago & Rock Island	95¾	95¾	95¾	95¾	95¾	95¾
Do preferred	103	103	103	103	103	103
Rock Island	93	93	93	93	93	93
Pittsburgh	90	90	90	90	90	90
Do preferred						101
Wabash, common	16¾	16¾	16¾	16¾	16¾	16¾
Fort Wayne	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾
Ohio & Mississippi	28	28	28	28	28	28
Union Pacific	72¾	73	73¼	73¼	73¼	73¼
New Jersey Central						78
Hannibal & St. Jos.	28	28	28	28	28	28
Iron Mountain						17
C. C. & I. C.	65¾	64¾	64¾	64¾	64¾	64¾
Toledo, Wabash & Western						11
Tennessee, new	31	31	31	31	31	31
South Carolinas, 6's	30	30	30	30	30	30
North Carolinas, July	30½	30½	30½	30½	30½	30½
Missouri 6's						

—The following is a report of the prices of leading stocks on the Philadelphia Stock Board, as received by wire at noon to-day:

	Bid.	Asked.
Pennsylvania Central, sales	55¾	
Reading, sales	36½	
United Co's. of N. Jersey		130½
Oil Creek		9¾
Lehigh Valley, sales	62	63
Allegheny Valley	43¾	43¾
Central Trans. Co	43¼	43¾
Empire Trans. Co	58¾	59
P., C. and St. Louis m. b.	76	77

HOP MARKETS.

NEW YORK.

April 10.—The market remains quiet, the buying being still confined to small parcels to meet immediate wants. The stock of prime is greatly reduced, and holders evince considerable firmness, in the expectation that with the advent of warmer weather brewers will purchase more liberally. We continue previous quotations. The following is from Mr. Emmet Wells' circular of 9th inst.:

	Bales.
Receipts for the week	214
Total receipts since September 1st, 1874	64,214
Total receipts for same period in 1873	19,528
Exports for the week	
Total exports since September 1st, 1874	15,633

LONDON, March 22.—Since report of 9th inst. the business has been confined chiefly to the lowest grades of new American, bearing English and 1868 and 1869 American, in all of which there has been a fair amount of trade done. The continuance of cold weather permits consumers to adhere to the policy of working off their old stocks, and to defer further purchases of new hops until the advent of warm weather renders it almost a matter of necessity to use them more freely. Under these circumstances, there is still a general tendency of prices to rule in favor of purchasers, notwithstanding that the available stocks of all kinds of new hops are very much less than is usually the case at this date.—*London Brewers' Guardian.*

PHILADELPHIA.

April 10.—Hops are quiet, there being no demand except for small lines. We quote:

New York's	30@33c
Other growths	25@32c
Yearlings and Olds	10@25c
Californias	30@40c

GENERAL MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, SATURDAY, April 10, 1875.

There was a moderately active movement of merchandise in all departments of business to-day. The advance of the season has inspired considerable life into trade, and the market is as brisk as it can be expected to be while work is suspended in our manufactories. The tendency of prices generally is upward, though no marked advances have taken place since our last report, except in provisions, which have advanced slightly here, although the supply markets are easier and lower, especially for mess pork. Grain was firm. Groceries moderately active, produce brisk, and dry goods very lively.

On the topic of western grain speculation the *New York Bulletin* says: "The bears in wheat seem to have had their day for the present, and are now undergoing such a squeeze in the West, especially at Chicago, by the bulls, as is likely to press from their pockets the large profits made in the first half of the season by bearing the market. Corn and oats have the same upward tendency, although there is not such a heavy short interest in these staples as to render the bears at all panicky, as they evidently are in wheat, which has gone up nearly 10c in Chicago, 15c in Toledo, and 18c in St. Louis, in the past few days, or 7c in Chicago since Monday of this week. Nor is is this all; the bulls have shown renewed strength and activity in the market for long contracts during the past week or two, although they have held control of these since the opening of the season, the last upward move has been almost as sharp as that in wheat. There is singularly enough not a single dissenting agricultural report in which there is ever any speculation that is not on the upward turn in values. Indeed, the race of bears among American operators bids fair to become extinct at the rate they have suffered India are by the ears. Bears stand in Chicago apparently helpless, neither daring to go further or retreat from the bull pit into which they have put themselves. To go still further short is also out certain ruin, while to anticipate their demands and cover is almost as bad, and so they are compelled to put up their margins and wait developments."

The receipts of the leading articles of produce since our last are as follows:

Flour, bbls	875	Apples, bbls	410
Cheese, lbs	70	Corn, bus	3,870
Wheat, bus	3,000	Barley, bus	5,500
Rye, bus	20	Oats, bus	11,095
Butter, pkgs	110	Bacon, pcs	6,212
Bacon, lbs	627	Potatoes, bus	2,290
Hay, bales	2,635		

The following quotations are prices realized in wholesale transactions, unless otherwise specified. On small sales, dealers will charge an advance. Prices of grain, unless stated to the contrary, are free of elevator.

Breadstuffs and Feed.

GRAIN—The receipts continue exceptionally light, being only 24,671 bushels of all kinds of grain for the past twenty-four hours. Trade has been firm, and on Saturday the late advances on corn and oats were fully maintained, the demand not very active, and somewhat in excess of the supply. The receipts of wheat were light, only 3,000 bushels. The market is firm, and very little wheat could be obtained at quotations. We quote No. 2 Chicken spring white wheat at $1 35 per bushel; extra Michigan and Illinois do at 1 37; Ohio and Illinois do at 1 25; amber do at 1 17@1 20; Ohio and Pennsylvania red wheat at 1 16@1 17. Corn is strong; receipts for the week were 3,870 bushels. We quote shelled at 58c for yellow; 57½c for high mixed; 56½c for mixed; new mixed; car steady at 56@56c for yellow on track; 55½@56c for mixed. There is a fair demand for oats, and prices are firm since the recent advances. The receipts for the past week were 11,095 bushels, falling off from the previous week of over 7,000 bushels. We quote at 40@40c for white; 47@48c for mixed. Barley has been coming in more freely, the receipts for the week being 5,500 bushels. The market is dull and quotations nominal. We quote at $2 50@2 60 for No. 2 fall. Rye was entirely nominal at $1 05 to 1 10. Prices and quotations are the visible supply of grain in warehouses at the various points, and in transit by the various routes, at the dates given below, was as follows:

	Wheat, bush.	Corn, bush.	Oats, bush.	Barley, bush.	Rye, bush.
Apr. 3	11,597,908	8,666,977	2,228,659	699,311	107,678
Mar. 27	12,171,627	8,233,964	2,388,474	802,161	97,944
Mar. 20	12,373,305	8,115,000	2,422,000	1,000,000	100,000
Mar. 13	12,175,188	8,158,351	2,255,190	1,376,514	145,954
Mar. 6	12,112,000	8,115,000	2,422,000	1,000,000	100,000
Feb. 27	12,112,188	8,116,833	2,230,033	1,440,300	146,371
Apr. 5	14,111,345	8,861,826	2,219,499	2,361,844	998,729	249,966

FLOUR—Receipts for the 8,439 barrels. The market continues firm. Mem. the reduction on through rates from Chicago to the seaboard having had a bullish effect in the West. The following are the prices of the local millers: No. 1 white wheat flour $6 75; No. 2 red or amber wheat flour $6 00; in sacks, $5 85. The following are the prices of leading dealers are as follows: Choice brands of white winter wheat flour $6 75@7 00; family do $6 25@6 50; choice 6 25; red winter wheat flour $6 25; rye flour $5 25@5 60; Graham flour $5 25@5 60; self-rising flour, in barrels, $5 50@5 75; buckwheat, in sacks; cornmeal $5 50; oatmeal $7 25@8 00.

HAY—Receipts of the week, 3,635 bushels. Market dull and with a large stock, prices are depressed. We quote prime timothy, on the basis of $20 00@21 00 per ton; also offered choice upland prairie $15 00@17 00; baled timothy is selling at $20 00@22 00 for No. 1; $17 00@19 00 for No. 2. Straw is quoted at $6 00@8 00 per ton.

MILL FEED—The market is easier. Bran is steady at $1 20@1 25 per cwt; shorts at $1 25@1 30 per cwt; choice mixed feed at $1 35@1 40 per cwt; oil meal $1 90@2 00 per cwt.

Country Produce.

APPLES—There is a quiet and unchanged market. Receipts for the week were 410 barrels. The supply is ample to meet the demand. We quote choice at $2 50@2 75 @ bbl; prime $2 00@2 50; common to medium dull at $1 50@2 00.

APPLE BUTTER—Is in fair supply and prices are easier. We quote at 50@55c @ gallon, in kegs; for prime; 45@50c for common.

BEANS—Receipts are very liberal, and the market is dull and weak, with a decline of 10c in prices. We quote prime white navy at $2 90@3 00; choice, medium $1 90@2 00; small to good $1 70@1 80.

BUTTER—The receipts for the past week were 127 packages, making the total for the year to date an increase of about one-third from the previous week. The stock continues large and the market is dull and weak. We quote fresh at 24@28c, with the bulk of the sales at 28@30c for choice. Packing stock common to prime 15@18c.

BEESWAX—Prime yellow beeswax is quoted at 30@35c @ lb in round lots; sales in a jobbing way are readily made at 40@50c.

CHEESE—The market continues very quiet. It is hardly considered safe to jobbing transactions. Prices are steady at 16½@16c @ lb for Ohio factory; New York Goshen 17@17½c; western 17@17½c. Receipts of the week, 1,710 boxes.

EGGS—The market is easier. We quote at 15@15½c @ dozen for fresh.

HOMINY—The market rules at $4 50 @ barrel.

FEATHERS—Are quoted as follows: No. 1, @ lb, 62½@65c for round lots; 60@62½c in a jobbing way; No. 2, @ lb, 30@35c, as to quality.

MIXED MEAT—Is quoted at 10c @ lb in a jobbing way.

MAPLE SUGAR—Maple sugar is sold at 10c @ lb for choice in round lots; in store house 11@12c; maple syrup in gallon jugs sells readily at $1 35 @ gallon in kegs $1 40; in cans at $1 25. The maple sweets is not large, and the market steady.

POTATOES—The receipts were very liberal during the week, being 14,455 bushels, against 8,423 the previous week. The supply is ample, and the market a trifle easier but does not naturally lower prices. We quote from store as follows: Peerless $1 05@1 10; other grades 90@95c. Sales at track were limited at 85@90c @ bushel for peachblows; $1 00@1 05 for Peerless.

PRESERVES AND DRIED FRUITS—We quote dried apples at 7½@8c @ lb; dried peaches are easy at 9@10c @ lb for choice halves. Honey is in large supply at 20@27c @ lb for clover; buckwheat honey, 15@20c. Pickles are quoted at $9 00 @ barrel; $5 00 @ half barrel.

SEEDS—Clover seed is moderately active; quotable at $6 90@7 00 @ bushel. Timothy seed quiet and unchanged at $1 60@1 70 @ bushel. Flax seed is scarce and no stock is offering; quoted nominally at $1 90@2 00; orchard grass seed is quoted at $1 00 @ bushel; blue grass do $2 50; red-top do $2 00. Onion seed $6 50@7 00 @ bushel.

VINEGAR—The market is dull and there are few sales. We quote in a jobbing way at 15@16c @ gallon for pure cider; inferior 10@12c.

Groceries.

The trade in groceries continues moderately active, although not up to what it usually has been at this season of the year. The full return of business in this line cannot be expected until the resumption of operations in the iron trade. Coffee is reported easier in the East but unchanged here. Sugars, molasses, etc., are firm but quotably unchanged. Prices current are as follows:

Green Coffees.	@ lb	*Sugars.*	
Fancy Rio	24@c	Standard A	10¾c
Choice Rio	23½c	Standard B	10¼c
Prime Rio	22 c	Standard extra C	9¾c
Good Rio	21 c	Franklin extra C	9¼c
Java	33 c	American extra C	9¼c
Roasted Coffees.		New Orleans	9@9½c
Rio, in papers	27 c	Cut loaf	11½c
Rio, in bulk	26½c	Crushed	11½c
Java, in papers	36 c	Powdered	11½c
Java, in bulk	35½c	Granulated	11½c
Young Hyson	50c@1 00	*Molasses.*	@ gall.
Gunpowder	50c@1 00	Strictly ch'c N.O	70c
Imperial	45c@1 00	Prime	65c
Japan	55c@1 00	Good	55c
Oolong	55c	*Syrups.*	
Fancy	1 00	Ex. white drips	75c
Souchong	25c@ 80	Sugar drips	65c
Spices.		Lower grades	45c@50c
Choice Carol'a	8@8½c	*Starch.*	@ lb
Patna	8 c	Pearl	6 c
Rangoon	7½@7½c	Silver glass	6½c
Spices.		Corn	10¼c
Cloves	55 c	*Raisins.*	
Allspice	17½@18½c	Layers, b bx	$3 25
Cassia	25 @26 c	Valentias, @ lb	17 c
Nutmegs	$1 35@1 40	Currants, @ lb	7½c
Pepper	26 @27 c	Prunes	10@12½c
Candles.		*Soaps.*	
Star, full weight	18½c	Irish soap @ bx	$1 50
Stearine	15 c	Castile soap @ lb	10 c
Soda.		Do. N.Y. City @ lb	9½c
Bi-carb, in 2-lb pkgs	8c	German Mottled	7 c
Bi-carb, in kegs	5c		

General Merchandise.

TOBACCO—There is a steady and strong demand. Quotations are as follows:

Spun roll	55@58c	Fine cut	70@80c
Black twist	55@58c	Fine cut plugs	70@80c
Black Tens	57@60c	Fine Cut	55@60c
Louisville Cav	58@60c	Cut and Dry	45@50c
Louisville Cav	68@70c	Scotch Snuff	60@75c
Virginia Navy	58@60c	Black Snuff	50@55c
Virginia Tens	58@65c	Six Twist	43@50c
Virginia Cav	59@65c	Cigars	
Double Foundation	63@65c	Penna. Seed	$15@20
Flounders	63@65c	Connecticut	25@30
Bright pounds	60@ 8	Seed & Havana	30@35
Black Cuttings	57@60c	Havana	90@1 00

FISH—There is a fair demand at steady prices. We quote as follows:

No. 1 extra large mackerel, @ bbl	$25 00	Lake'g do @ 100	$7 50
No. 1 mess	22 00	Boneless codfish	
No. 1 shore	20 00	@ lb	5½@6c
Extra No. 1 shore	18 00	White fish, @ half bbl	4 75
Extra No. 1 bay	15 00	Labrador herring, @ bbl	6 50
No. 1 bay	14 00	Lake herring, @ hf bbl	4 75
No. 2 bay	11 50	Labrador herring, @ bbl	6 50
New No. 3	9 50	Round do	6 25@6 75
Georges codfish, medium, @ 100 lbs	6 00	Boneless Pollock @ lb	2 25

CANNED GOODS—There is a fair demand for the spring jobbing trade. Tomatoes, 3-lb cans, @ doz, $1 75@2 00; peaches, 3-lb cans, @ doz, $2 50; corn, 2-lb cans, @ doz, $2 00; Lima beans, 1-lb cans, $2 55; string beans, 2-lb cans, $1 75; cherries, 2-lb cans, $2 25@2 50; blackberries, 2-lb cans, $2 00; pine apples, 2-lb cans, $2 40; pears, 2-lb cans, $2 25; pint pickles, @ doz, $1 35; quart pickles, @ doz, $1 35½; gallon pickles, @ doz, $3 25.

CARBON OIL—The market is easier. We quote 13½@13½c for crude in bbls; 20c for refined in bbls; 22c for refined in cans, and 25c for refined in small cans. Naphtha is quoted at 15@15½c @ gallon for 76 deg. test.

Provisions.

The receipts for the week were somewhat increased, being 6,212 pieces and 627 tierces, estimated at 250,495 pounds. The market is firm and has advanced somewhat, although reports said to have been received at the late advance.

BACON—We quote shoulders at 9¾@10c @ lb; clear rib sides at 13½@13¾c; clear sides 13¾@14c.

HAMS—We quote plain sugar cured new at 14c @ lb. Sugar cured shoulders at 10½@10½c @ lb; breakfast bacon is quoted at 14c; canvassed hams, 14½@15c; sweet 100@120 lbs, @ dozen $7 50.

MESS PORK—The market is strong and advanced. We quote at $23 50@24 00 @ bbl.

LARD—In firm at quotations. We quote prime kettle, in buckets, 17½c; in 5-lb cuddies, 18c; in 5-lb cuddies do, 17½c; in 3-lb pails do, 18½c; in 5-lb do, 18½c; in 6-lb do, 18c.

LARD OIL—We quote extra No. 1 winter strained at $1 12 @ gallon.

TALLOW—Sales at 6@6½c @ lb for choice, and 7½@7¾c for medium.

Speaking of the prospects of the provision market, the *Financial Chronicle* says: The prices paid by the packers for swine during the past season have been unusually high—never equalled of late, except during the Franco-German war and our own civil contest. The average has been $8 22½ per one hundred pounds, against $5 42½ last season, an increase of $2 79½, or 51½ per cent. So large an increase in the detailed valuation put upon nearly an equal quantity promised, is one of the anomalies of the season. In the same connection we shall find of interest a comparison of prices of each product for three seasons, at or about April 5:

	1873.	1874.	1875.
Mess pork, @ bbl	$17 50	$16 75	$22 75
Lard, @ lb	8c	10	10½
Bacon, @ lb	9¾	9½

CITY MATTERS.

For one dollar per month the DAILY COMMERCIAL will be mailed daily to travelers or to subscribers who are temporarily absent from Pittsburgh. The address of the paper will be changed as often as is desired.

Local Observations.

OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER, U. S. SIG. SERV., ROOM 23, First National Bank, PITTSBURGH, PA., April 11, 1875.

Time.	Bar.	Th'r	Hum	WIND. Dir.	Force.	Weath.
7 A.M.	29.853	52	47	E.	Light	Cloudy.
2 P.M.	29.689	61	32	S.	Fresh,	Fair.
9 P.M.	29.739	56.5	80	W.	Light	Fair.

Mean barometer....29.755 Highest thermom. 69
Mean thermometer. 57.2 Lowest thermom.. 44
Rainfall..... 0.12.

Rising Sun Flour.

Two cars bags will arrive to-day by the Baltimore and Ohio road.

Beaver College.

Spring session opens April 20. Address Rev. R. T. Taylor, Beaver, Pa. mwfs

Pittsburgh Female College.

Spring term commences April 15th. Send to Rev. I. C. Pershing, D.D., for catalogue.

Wants her Daughter.

Mrs. Barbara Lang, on Saturday, presented an application to the Court of Common Pleas No. 2, for a writ of *habeas corpus*, commanding Mrs. Moreland, of No. 9 Robinson street, Allegheny, to produce the body of her daughter, Elizabeth Lang, aged seventeen years, who has illegally restrained of her liberty. The writ was granted, and made returnable at ten o'clock this morning.

Young America.

There is a boy in the Thirteenth ward, not yet five years old, who smokes and chews tobacco like a veteran. His habits in this direction were formed between two and three years ago, so that he has used "the weed" almost since an infant. He smokes cigars when given to him, but prefers a pipe, as it is stronger. His mother states that the taste for tobacco was born in him, and has increased each year since. He now requires at least three "smokes" a day, but enjoys a greater number when he can get them. But would Dr. Trask have him?

The Health and Poor Boards.

Bill No. 54, recently declared unconstitutional by Judge White, of our Common Pleas court, and which has been appealed to the Supreme Court, abolishes the Board of Health and Poor Board. At least it gives to councils the power "To make regulations to prevent the introduction of contagious diseases into the city; to make quarantine laws for that purpose, and enforce the same; to erect, establish and regulate hospitals, workhouses and poor houses, and to provide for the proper government and support of the same; to make regulations for the general health of the city, and to remove and prevent nuisances."

Fire in Allegheny.

A fire occurred Saturday morning between two and three o'clock, in the foundry of Thos. Carlin, on Sandusky street, Allegheny, destroying the pattern shop and a large quantity of valuable patterns. The building, which was fully insured, was valued at about $5,000. The loss in patterns will reach $12,000: Brewers' of Milwaukee, $1,000; Providence Washington, of Rhode Island, $1,630; Manufacturers', $1,630; Northwestern, Milwaukee, $2,000. Total, $5,150. Fire Marshal Hilvinger is desirable in the matter, and concludes that the fire was caused by an incendiary. Operations at the foundry will not be suspended.

The March of Improvement.

The old German Evangelical Lutheran church, corner of Grant street and Sixth avenue, is about demolished, and its site will soon be erected, by the congregation, three handsome brick business houses to front on Grant street, Mr. J. J. Booth, the well known contractor, has the work of demolishing the old building, which has stood many years, in hand. The new buildings will be put up by Messrs. Kennedy & Mc. Cutcheon, carpenters and builders, of the Sixth ward. The firm has the ability and capacity for the work, and will in the performance of their contract give entire satisfaction. The new block will be an ornament to the Third ward.

The Hair Store Fire.

Before the Fire Marshal had concluded his investigation into the fire at Henry Griffin's hair store, on Beaver avenue, Allegheny, he found symptoms of fraud. The proprietor was insured in two companies, to the amount of $2,500. The goods destroyed were in a show window, and their value was claimed by the proprietor to be $2,000. Some of the neighbors had their suspicions aroused by Griffin's stories since the fire, and arrangements had been made for his arrest yesterday morning. When the officers visited the store for the purpose of taking Mr. Griffin into custody, it was found that he had departed the premises, "bag and baggage." The insurance people feel relieved at this departure.

A Leap for Liberty.

John Hide and Albert Bebe, who were arrested on a charge of burglarizing the glass house of Campbell, Jones & Co., on the South side, were committed to jail for a hearing. Officer Porter had Bebe in custody, and was proceeding jailward with his prisoner, over the Birmingham bridge, when the latter suddenly broke within a few feet of the Pittsburgh end of the structure Bebe ju mped over the railing, falling on the ground under the bridge's edge. The officer watched the descent of his prisoner with much interest, and after a moment's hesitation to the distance from the bridge to the ground was only about twenty feet) he also jumped the railing, alighted near the fugitive and rearresting him without any further trouble. Bebe sprained his ankle, but the officer escaped injury. The prisoner was lodged in jail.

Boating News from Abroad.

The skiff match between Sadler, of London, and Boyd, of Gateshead, on the Tyne, resulted in a victory for Boyd. The race was one of the most exciting ever witnessed, and was won by the sheer gameness and persistency of Boyd, who showed sterling powers as an oarsman. The English public are already looking for a championship contest between these men. The time of the mile was six minutes and ten and a half seconds.

Wm. Spence and James Griffiths, two well-known Thames watermen, met in a scullers race on the river, over the course from Putney to Hammersmith, 23d ult., for £200, Spencer proving an easy winner. The latter was nearly fifty pounds heavier, but his shoulder and such powers that he is looked upon as one of the most promising scullers seen on the Thames during the past five years.

The "Scalpers" Law in Illinois.

The "scalpers" bill, entitled "An act to prevent frauds upon travelers and owners of any railroad, steamboat, or other conveyance for the transportation of passengers," passed both houses of the Illinois Legislature last Friday. The Chicago *Tribune*, of Saturday, says of the bill: The new bill is to stop the sale of railroad or steamboat tickets in this State by any but duly appointed agents of the various railroad companies. It has been passed through the influence of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, which had a similar law passed by the Indiana and Pennsylvania Legislatures. The effort was also made to carry this measure through the Ohio Legislature, but failed. This bill is aimed not so much against the scalpers as it is against the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad. Since the war between the Baltimore and Ohio and the Pennsylvania Railroad has commenced, and rates were reduced to Chicago via East and West, the former company has been selling unlimited tickets, while the latter company has limited its tickets to a large degree. This action on the part of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad has worked very disastrously against the Pennsylvania and other Eastern lines, and was badly injuring their business to local points. Large numbers of tickets sold by agents of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad were bought by scalpers and others on speculation, but as the latter could not have since reduced their rates lower than those previously established by the Baltimore and Ohio, these speculators were badly stuck.

By a provision in the bill just passed, railroad companies are compelled to redeem all tickets or portions of tickets not used by the purchasers, and hence the Baltimore and Ohio will be compelled to redeem a large number of the tickets previously sold, which will prove a great loss, unless the differential rates between lines should at once be settled, and the rates restored again. It is believed by the managers of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company that this bill will compel the Baltimore and Ohio to listen to terms of peace or reduce its rates still further.

THE CENTENNIAL TEA PARTY.

The Matinee on Saturday—Financial Success of the Whole Affair.

The Centennial tea parties closed on Saturday afternoon with a matinee for the benefit of the little folks. All the tables except the "National" were removed to give room for the dance. The "National" was gorgeously decorated, and presided over by Mrs. Judge Jones, assisted by a large number of young ladies. The attendance of little folks and of adult spectators at the matinee was very large, and there was lots of fun and enjoyment had. The Germania band did its prettiest, and from two to five o'clock the dancing was kept up.

The venture in behalf of the Centennial celebration was a financial success. Much credit is due to the ladies for their efforts in its behalf. The receipts of the several days at the tables were as follows:

Wednesday	$1,052 40
Thursday	1,177 80
Friday	1,542 37
Matinee	297 56
Total	$4,280 12
Estimated tickets sold	4,000 00
	$8,280 12

The total receipts at the National table were $52 45, and the next highest seat was that of South Carolina, netting $37[illegible]

No definite report can be given of the tickets sold until a settlement is had with the various stores and persons having tickets on sale, but it will be safe to place the amount at $4,000. There are additional receipts not yet handed to the Treasurer, viz.: Rebecca's well for the three nights and the matinee; art room for Friday night and the hat and coat room for the three nights—these added will doubtless swell the receipts at the tables to $4,500.

At the close of the party Mr. Andrew Carnegie sent the Treasurer a check for $70 as a donation.

RAILWAY FREIGHTS.

The Other Side of the Question—A Denial that the Pennsylvania Company Discriminates Against Pittsburgh—Views of a Prominent Railway Official.

The topic of freight discriminations is one that interests every business man in Pittsburgh, and the discussion of that subject has of late attracted much attention. Several communications from wholesale merchants have appeared in the columns of the COMMERCIAL, setting forth, with much earnestness and force, the alleged disadvantages under which the business interests of Pittsburgh labor, the grievances of which they compain, and urging measures of relief. As this side of the question was being thoroughly ventilated, a representative of the COMMERCIAL was directed to obtain the views of the railway authorities, in order that that side of the question might also be laid before the public.

It was found, however, on calling on the prominent officials connected with the freight departments of the railroads under control of the Pennsylvania Company—in regard to which the principal complaint exists—that these gentlemen had no desire to make any statement for the public on this subject. The usual response to the inquiries of the COMMERCIAL'S representative, was that they did not wish to stir up any controversy the subject; that there was considerable feeling at present which had been produced by the all-advised agitation, and that they thought the wisest manner of treating the subject was to let the matter die down quietly. For these, and other reasons, it was not deemed wise by these gentlemen to make any statements for publication on their personal or official authority. One gentleman of prominent standing in freight circles went so far as to give the railroad side of the question for the information and benefit of the COMMERCIAL in treating this important subject, which was substantially as follows:

It was, in the first place, denied that there was any practical discrimination against Pittsburgh in the existing freight tariffs of the Pennsylvania Company and its connecting lines. It is true that at present some fourth-class freights, such as flour, grain, pork and bacon, are carried from Chicago to New York for the same rates as to Pittsburgh, or a very little more; but this is only a temporary state of affairs, and is due to causes entirely beyond the control of the Pennsylvania Company. In anticipation of the opening of lake navigation, parties interested in that route of water transportation, were offering in Chicago, to take freights to the seaboard at very low rates indeed. This operated to decrease—in fact to almost entirely cut off—the through freight traffic of the railways. Their yards were filled with acres of empty cars, and they had an additional incentive for accepting low rates for eastern freights, in the hope that they could lend the same cars in return by the movement of spring merchandise for the West. The Michigan Central was the first road to cut the rates of the Saratoga combination. The Baltimore and Ohio was stated to be the next, and the roads of the Pennsylvania Company had to follow suit in order self-protection. The influence of the railway war also brought prices down on through freights from Chicago to the seaboard, until, as stated above, the tariff on such prominent articles of produce, as flour, grain, provisions, &c., from Chicago to New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore are practically the same as Pittsburgh rates. It is claimed that this does not constitute any discrimination against Pittsburgh, as the "kick" said the gentlemen who gave us this view of the question, "the merchants of Pittsburgh never have entered the through rates business, and have no interest in the rates to those points. They only desire to supply the home markets here, and those of the country towns of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. For that reason the rates given on merchandise which goes to New York, Philadelphia or Baltimore, for consumption in those cities, or for exportation to Europe, do not injure Pittsburgh trade, even if they are relatively lower than the rates to that city."

Concerning the distribution of produce by Pittsburgh merchants to the country towns on the line from Pittsburgh eastward, it was also claimed that the Pittsburgh merchants have the same privileges that other dealers have. Prop rates are given from Chicago to all those points, and all that is required of a Pittsburgh merchant is to secure the most advantageous freight rates to the interior towns of the State, by contracting as large a car of goods, or flour or other merchandise, is to have it shipped direct from Chicago to the point of consignment. In this transaction, the Pittsburgh dealer makes his commission or profit, and has the same advantages that merchants elsewhere have in this trade.

The officials of the Pennsylvania Company express no uneasiness at the effect of the competition of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad for Chicago freights to this city by way of Cumberland. They say that the Baltimore and Ohio route, by which that road proposes to compete with them, is 37 miles longer, while their own route by the Ft. Wayne is only 426 miles. With that difference in distance in their favor, the Pennsylvania Company feel assured that they are masters of the situation. It is true, they say, that the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad are taking freights under the Ft. Wayne road, but the impression of the railway men is that the difference in time required to transport the freight the extra 468 miles by the Baltimore and Ohio route, will more than offset the differences in freight charges. In the cases of some bulky freight—as mineral oil, for example)—the element of quick transportation is of the highest importance, and in all mercantile transactions it is desirable to receive the produce shipped as soon as possible. This element of time, alone, is believed to be sufficient to decide the question in favor of the Pennsylvania Company's roads, as merchants will prefer to pay the higher rates and receive their merchandise promptly, rather than have to wait for its transportation over the 468 miles extra distance, even though they get a reduction on the rates. Besides this, the officers of the Pennsylvania Company claim that the Baltimore and Ohio road cannot afford to enter into competition with them, when they have such odds in their favor as regards distance. For these, and other reasons of minor public interest, the opinion of the railroad officials of the Pennsylvania company is, that they need not fear the competition of the Baltimore and Ohio road in the freight business between Pittsburgh and Chicago.

Finally, the argument on the railroad side of the question is urged quite forcibly, that the first duty of the officers of the company is to the stockholders. Like all other enterprises, the railways were built for the purpose of becoming sources of profit to the investors, and the officers of these companies feel that it is their first duty to so operate the road as to insure the largest possible returns upon the investment. Of course they recognize the importance of conciliating the mercantile interests from which they derive their large share of their profits, and express every desire to do so, as far as is consistent with their duty to the stockholders of their companies. But when that course would lead to the reduction of rates in such a degree as to reduce, or entirely destroy the profits of the freight-carrying trade, they think that it defeats its own object, so far as the public is concerned. The exigencies of their traffic have rendered it necessary for them to establish rates from certain points, to an unprofitable degree, for the purpose of retaining business which in ordinary times would be unprofitable. When the rates of Western railroads are lifted with the railway officials did not desire to enter into any discussion with the press on the subject. The officers of the roads operated by the Pennsylvania Company say that this matter should be allowed to rest where it is, and without intending to resist any attempts at agitating the question from the other side, they have no idea of being drawn into any controversy on this topic. The views set forth above were given, however, to the representative of the COMMERCIAL for the use and benefit of its journal, and we give them to the public, not as an authoritative or exhaustive statement of the position of the freight officials of the Pennsylvania Company, but simply for what they are worth, as some of the ideas and arguments which are expressed by these gentlemen in conversation on this topic. The same facts on which these views are founded, may, and doubtless do, produce different opinions when viewed from another standpoint; but their force and cogency, as viewed from the position of railway officials, will be acknowledged by many.

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THE RISING MAINS CONTRACT.

The Court Refuse to Grant the Mandamus—The Co-ordinate Courts Not to Clash Hereafter.

On Saturday Judge Stowe delivered the opinion of the Court of Common Pleas No. 1 in the case of Snyder & Co. vs. The City of Pittsburgh, being an application for a *mandamus* to compel the Councils to award the contract for the rising mains for the new Water Works to the petitioners, instead of to Jared M. Brush & Co., on the ground that they (the petitioners) were the "lowest responsible bidders." The case was submitted to the court, under the new law which permits parties to waive a jury trial—so that the court had to pass upon both the facts and the law. Judge Stowe, after reciting the facts alleged on both sides, and which were really not disputed, says:

The real questions in controversy, then, are: First—Had the Water Committee a right to reject *any* particular bid, and accept another, at their pleasure?

Second—Whether plaintiffs were *responsible* bidders, and if so,

Third—Are they entitled to the remedy they ask?

The first question is one of law, about which we have no difficulty. Assuming, for the present (of which we have no evidence within the record, and which we understand is not the case), that the councils have, since the passage of the act entitled "An act dividing the cities of the State into three classes," approved the 23d of May, 1874, created ordinances regulating how all contracts for work and material required by the city to be performed, shall be given to the lowest responsible bidder, it is and clear that under the act of Assembly referred to, the Councils have no power to reject any bid at their pleasure, even if they had specifically so provided in their ordinance. To allow this would entirely nullify the act of Assembly and take away from the people the very protection the law gives them. We do not here deny the right of Councils to reject *all* bids under proper circumstances, but the right to reject *any particular* bid and accept another, thus assuming the right of selection, except when done according to the provisions of the act of Assembly, we do not recognize.

But we have no evidence in the case that any act is in existence regulating the manner in which bids are to be given to the lowest responsible bidder, even anti-dating the act of May, 1874. It was stated upon inquiry by the court during the argument that such an ordinance was in existence. If so, it is not made a part of the case, and we are, therefore, in no condition to decide upon it, even if under any circumstances it could be made to answer the requirements of the act of Assembly, which, to say the least, we consider extremely doubtful. If these views are correct we must refuse the application for a peremptory *mandamus*, because without a compliance with the act of Assembly neither plaintiff nor Jared M. Brush could have a right to compel the city authorities to consummate the agreement involved in this case.

But recurring to the second question, and which was the ground of demurrer, particularly under the evidence and upon argument, we find it not well taken. The only ground that plaintiffs were the lowest bidders, and are of opinion that they were in a more peculiar sense "responsible." And we are further of opinion that the evidence does not sustain the allegations, and it was so within the knowledge of the defendants that N. Snyder & Co., by some means or other, attempted and did by corrupt practices to procure the action of said committees in surreptitiously departing from the plans for a certain contract for the construction of boilers, &c., and that N. Snyder was a man of intemperate habits, whose character for truthfulness, said have no interest in the rates to those points. They only desire to supply the home markets here, and those of the country towns of Pennsylvania and West Virginia. For that reason the rates given on merchandise which goes to New York, Philadelphia or Baltimore, for consumption in those cities, or for exportation to Europe, do not injure Pittsburgh trade, even if they are relatively lower than the rates to that city."

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THE TRADESMEN'S INSTITUTE.

Communication from the Secretary—Co-operation of the Central Board of Education Desired.

Our readers are somewhat familiar with the proposed establishment of a Tradesmen's Institute in this city and the holding of annual industrial exhibitions under its auspices. It will be seen by the following communication from Mr. Vannote, Secretary of the Institute, addressed to Mr. George J. Luckey, Superintendent of our city schools, that the co-operation of the Central Board of Education is desired.

"We have had a number of interviews and some correspondence relative to the establishing of an industrial school in this city, by means of such plans as might be devised in connection with the Central Board of Education. I have brought the subject to the attention of the Directors of the Institute, and they have by resolution authorized me to correspond officially with you on the subject, and to pledge their co-operation in any plans we may arrange looking to the accomplishment of the object aimed at.

In order, therefore, that the subject may be brought into practical shape, I have the honor to suggest and request, that you lay the subject before the Central Board at an early date. As an aid to them I will further state I have had full correspondence and several interviews with the Governor and Chairman of the Legislative Committee before whom this subject would naturally come, and have every assurance that if we start such a school the State will pay in excess of the first outlay.

I may also state that in several conversations had in the Board of Directors of this Institute, the idea has uniformly prevailed, that the surplus products of our exhibitions, and such machinery as we could obtain a gift or a rental, be used in supporting and fostering the interests of the Industrial School above suggested.

While this is true, we also think that the movement, so far as the Industrial School is concerned, should apparently originate with, and be mostly controlled, fully and absolutely, by the Central Board of Education, that we may obtain the State aid from the $1,000,000 annually appropriated by the State for the public school system, and that it may be the beginning of a system of industrial education for the entire State.

Our Board has of late advertised for proposals looking to the location of buildings in which to hold an exposition during the coming fall, and in reply have had our attention attracted to several admirably located sites within the city limits, some of which have increased in being very particularly adapted to the use of such a school as we contemplate, and in a shape that will occasion no outlay for changes for our purposes. In short, I feel confident such a school, with moderate means, could be placed in operation and in full operation within the current year.

Any further information that may be desired as to the plans of our Board or of any kind that I may be possessed of that will contribute to the furtherance of the object above mentioned, I will most cheerfully furnish."

Prof. Luckey submitted the communication to the High School committee of the Central Board, on Saturday last, and after some informal discussion, said matter was referred until a future meeting. It is proposed that the subject shall be brought before the Central Board by resolution at their next meeting. There is considerable opposition manifested against any recommendation looking to the diverting of any portion of the present appropriation of $1,000,000 from the common schools proper.

STILL THE THIRTY-SEVENTH WARD.

The Decree of the Court Not Yet Entered.

Immediately upon the decision of the court in the case of James Kelly vs. the city of Pittsburgh relative to the legality of the admission of what has been known as the Thirty-seventh ward, which was announced some three weeks since, the district was considered outside of the city, the three Councilmen who had represented the district ceased at once to act. Mayor McCarthy withdrew the policemen on duty there, and the Central Board of Education, through its Finance Committee, notified the teachers in the public schools that no more funds could be drawn from the city treasury for the payment of their salaries. The result was merely felt the loss of school facilities for some four hundred children. Several meetings have been held to devise ways and means to continue the schools, but nothing looking thereto has been finally determined upon. Ever since April 1st, we believe the schools have been closed.

Thus the matter has stood until Saturday, when counsel for defendant in the case, proceeding to appeal from the decree, called and wishing to procure a copy of the decree, found that none had been entered. The report then got abroad that the Thirty-seventh ward was still in the city, and that the decree had not issued because of a disagreement of the Judges. A reporter of the COMMERCIAL called upon Judge Ewing to ascertain the facts in the case and procured the following information:

The decree has not yet been entered, and, consequently the status of the ward as a part of the city remains the same as before the decree that the failure in the entering of the decree is owing to the fact that counsel for the city complainant in not presenting it to the court for approval as is customary. A few days ago a form was to order filed by the city, but it was did not meet his views and he handed it back. On Saturday last another form was presented, and the judge changed it to suit his views. Judge Kirkpatrick not being at home, however Judge Ewing will not sign said order and thus the matter rests. It will, no doubt, be finally settled in a few days.

Meantime one good result follows: The Central Board of Education will hardly hesitate to continue to order the payment of the school teachers for the month of March.

In this connection citizens will be glad to learn that the Finance School committee at a meeting held on Saturday decided to allow pupils from the Thirty-seventh ward to remain in the High School until the close of the term, June 30th.

THE MAGEE MANDAMUS

A Double Answer Filed—The Majority of Councils Assign Reasons Why They Refuse to Swear in Another Mayor.

Mr. Bigelow, City Attorney, filed two answers to the alternative *mandamus* granted on Councils, by the Common Pleas Court No. 2, requiring them to swear in Mr. Magee, as mayor, to office, to Christopher Magee, Esq., as Mayor elect, or show cause why they should not do so. Dr. Gross, President of the Select Branch, answers for a majority of the members, setting forth that they do not consider Mr. Magee entitled to the office as to the election and qualification of Wm. C. McCarthy, for the office of Mayor, etc., and denying the legality of the election of Mr. Magee. The answer concludes thus:

The respondents admit that they did in the manner as set forth in said petition, request that the said Councils would meet in joint convention in order that the oath of office of Mayor of said city might be duly administered to said relator, but they say that the said joint Common Councils respectively refused to meet for such purpose as requested, and did so refuse because they believed that the said relator had not been legally elected Mayor of said city, and was not entitled to have the oath of office administered to him.

Following is the answer of the minority:

The respondents admit that the said relator did in the manner as set forth in said petition, request that the said Councils would meet in joint convention in order that the oath of office of Mayor of said city might be duly administered to said relator, but they say that the said joint Common Councils respectively refused to meet for such purpose as requested, and did so refuse because they believed that the said relator had not been legally elected Mayor of said city, and was not entitled to have the oath of office administered to him.

Following is the answer of the minority:

The respondents admit that the said relator did in the manner as set forth in said petition, request that the said Councils would meet in joint convention in order that the oath of office of Mayor of said city might be duly administered to said relator, but they say that the said joint Common Councils respectively refused to meet for such purpose as requested, and did so refuse because they believed that the said relator had not been legally elected Mayor of said city, and was not entitled to have the oath of office administered to him.

Following is the answer of the minority:

The respondents admit that they are William Gormley, Ferd. Smith, Francis S. Hogle, John C. Reilly, Peter Connolly, Charles F. Powers, Francis H. Payne, Patrick Donaldson, William McNamara, Jacob Ahl, David H. Bruce, W. B. Negley, James B. Murray, John H. Scully, J. B. Eggers, Joseph Smith, Geo. Braun, J. Schneebenbard, Robert Liddell, R. N. Ray, John O'Neil, Patrick M. Carr, ——Glenn, Gregory Fox, W. H. Lanier, A. H. Ashburn, E. E. Breed, B. Rafferty, J. Speakman.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

"The Gilded Age," with John T. Raymond as *Colonel Mulberry Sellers*, to-night. This will be a treat such as the Opera House has not afforded for a while. If it were only that public curiosity needed to be satisfied as to the ability of the American humorist to construct an American play, we should expect crowded houses at every "Gilded Age" performance; but Mr. Raymond has made such a hit in the character of *Sellers* as to himself an attraction quite apart from the literary merits of the piece. Therefore we congratulate the public of Pittsburgh that the time has arrived for the dramatic firstling of Mark Twain and the celebrated impersonation of Mr. Raymond; and we also warn those who are fastidious about seats to speak for them early at the box office.

Library Hall.

Carneross & Dixey's minstrel troupe take possession of the stage at Library Hall this evening, and it is but reasonable to expect that they will present to a very large crowd. They have played here many times, and never yet failed to please and amuse audiences filling the theater in which they appeared. They have gathered from season to season the best corps theater in Philadelphia, when their popularity seems to increase with each succeeding year. They appear none but artists of high standing in the profession, and always come prepared with a large number of new burlesques, songs, etc. Mr. Carncross is the best ballad singer on the minstrel stage, while Mr. Dixey has few equals as a comedian.

The box-sheet is now open at Hale's music store, No. 105 Smithfield street.

Masonic Hall.

Blind Tom had an immense gathering of people to hear him on Saturday at both performances. He will give his last concert at Masonic Hall this evening. Seats are to be had at Sheib's, 70 Fifth avenue.

Academy of Music.

Mrs. G. C. Howard, whose name was identified with the part of *Topsy* in the drama of "Uncle Tom's Cabin," which that play was first produced, will appear at the Academy of Music on Thursday, Friday and